



WORKS IN PROGRESS

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SERVING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY OF OLYMPIA SINCE 1990

March 2011

The Seattle Metro bus ads How the bullies got their way

by Wally Cuddeford

“Israeli war crimes – Your tax dollars at work.”

That *was* to be the message on bus ads in Seattle, paid for by the Seattle Mideast Awareness Campaign. The caption would accompany a photo of Palestinian children standing in front of a Gaza building reduced to rubble, along with the organization’s website, www.stop30billion-seattle.org. (“Stop 30 billion” refers to the \$30 billion the U.S. has committed to give to the Israeli military over the course of 10 years.) The ads were scheduled to begin running on December 27, 2010.

When the group first purchased the ads, King County Metro administrators reviewed them, noted that the ads would be “controversial,” but saw no reason why they couldn’t run. Metro’s own advertising policy states any advertisement is appropriate, as long as it meets four conditions:

- No pornography,
- No depiction of alcohol,
- No depiction of tobacco,
- And “as long as the

images and material used don’t interfere with public safety or insult specific groups to the point that a riot could be incited, vandalism could occur or public safety could be threatened.”

The fact that the ads were noted as “controversial” was nothing out of the ordinary for Metro. Political ads of all kinds are a staple of the service. In 2009, many people complained to Metro when the Freedom From Religion Foundation ran an ad on Seattle buses which read



“Yes, Virginia ... There is no god!” In fact, this wouldn’t even have been the first time the Israel-Palestine Conflict found its way onto public transit. The Arab-American Community Coalition once bought two ads on Seattle Metro – one reading “Save Gaza! Justice for all,” and the other reading “End siege of Gaza!” The same year,

the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle also bought an ad which read “Thousands have fallen in pursuit of peace – Remember Israel’s soldiers and victims of terror.” Despite that each of these ads ran for their intended duration, Sharron Shibo, advertising manager for

King County Metro, recalled receiving only eight complaints for them – not even as many as received for the atheist ad.

However, this time, the proposed ad became a story of global interest, one

which invoked a heated reaction. The ad was eventually cancelled before it was scheduled to start. Now, with a civil suit filed against the county, ugly details are emerging at just how opponents silenced this advertisement.

Instigation

There are three differences between the “Israeli War Crimes” ad and the previous pro-Palestine ads.

- 1) The ad focused on Israel rather than on Palestine,
- 2) The ad made the connection between the occupation of Palestinian land and U.S. taxpayer complicity, and
- 3) Unlike the previous ads, this campaign was spotlighted on local NBC affiliate KING 5 News.

The KING 5 “exclusive” segment (meaning, no other station in Seattle reported on the ad) referred to the advertisement as “blasting Israel and U.S. support for Israel,” and said the ad was “sure to generate controversy.” The ubiquitous concept of advertising was described as “a local group [will] publicly accuse Israel of war crimes, and [will] use King County public buses to do it.” Rhetorically, the reporter asked “Is the side of a public bus the right place for this kind of attack?” The video segment and news brief were available worldwide on the

► ISRAEL, continued on page 6

The War on Drugs A war against the American public

by Dana Walker

Hey kids! In my last article it was my great pleasure to provide a blow-by-blow account of how a small but intrepid band of international Banksters engaged in a seemingly Quixotic war on Everyone Else in the Whole World. I thrilled you with descriptions of how against daunting and seemingly impossible odds they actually won this battle! They beat Everyone Else in the Whole World even though Everyone Else in the Whole World outnumbered them by a factor of around 260-million-to-one! They managed to continue recording record profits even as Everyone Else in the Whole World fell flat on their rears in complete economic chaos due to a disaster brought on by these very Banksters themselves!

It was pure genius! I hereby officially endorse the proposition that a Nobel Prize should be awarded for Chutzpah!

Well, kids, pull up your chairs and make yourself comfortable because I have another special treat for you this month! Once again I am able to present for your edification an inspirational tale of glory and stunning achievement! (Fanfare, please!)

It is my pleasure and honour to announce that today I am going to reveal

Roberto Hernandez was the owner of the second largest bank in Mexico. After he was exposed as a high-level drug dealer, Mr. Hernandez was given a seat on the Board of Directors of Citicorp.

some of the tactical genius of our heroes by focusing upon one aspect of the battle, i.e. Wall Street’s War on the Poor!

(Readers should note that for purposes of public relations the ‘War on the Poor’ has been labeled as the ‘War on Drugs’.)

The ‘War on Drugs’ has been going strong for over thirty years now yet there are more drugs at a cheaper price than

ever. Thus, the ‘War on Drugs’ has been an abject failure at its stated purpose of reducing drug use. However, it has been a *spectacular* success at several of its *unstated* purposes, the central of these being that the ‘War on Drugs’ has created the most astronomical financial windfall for criminals in all human history.

Do you remember Exxon Mobil so proudly boasting last year of the largest reported profit in human history? What was it, in the neighborhood \$40 billion or so if I remember correctly? Hah! The Banksters laugh in condescending derision! Chicken feed!

Pocket change! As described in my previous article they recently received \$600 billion from the Federal Reserve and almost \$2 trillion from the taxpayers literally for *nothing*! They own Exxon/Mobil! They own *everything*! Exxon/Mobil is a mom and pop country store! In addition to already owning almost everything that there is to own the Banksters now also own your homes and pension funds

and life savings and jobs! They own Joe Mama!

But believe it or not, even the proceeds from *these* over-the-top dominatrix style business tactics represent only a portion of their portfolio and profit. The *truly* big bucks are in *drugs*.

I can already picture any Conspiracy Theory Debunkers who might be reading this unsheathing their knives in joyous expectation of an accusation that Wall Street Banksters are dealing drugs. Sorry, that is not where I am going. Other than the odd board member here and there, our intrepid heroes are far too high on the economic food-chain to dirty their soft white hands or indulge in anything as sordid and as low as dealing drugs.

The Banksters *launder* the drug money.

That is where the money’s at. *That* is the vital underbelly of the whole system.

That is the most important and least talked about part of the equation.

That is the elephant in the room that no established reporter who values their career or their life will touch.

As mentioned, I am talking *lots* of money. I am talking vast sums of unaccountable cash. Scads of money! *Tons* of money! Huge mountainous stacks of \$100 bills! Enough money to buy all of the cops, judges, politicians,

► DRUGS, continued on page 10

Local leaders/groups ask President Obama to end Grand Jury investigation of peace and solidarity activists

More than 70 regional community leaders and organizations have signed an open letter calling on President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder to use their authority to “stop assaults on freedom of speech and association, to halt FBI entrapment, [and] to keep nonviolent activists from being sent to prison.” The letter was issued by Seattle United Against FBI Repression.

Signers to the letter include Larry Gossett, Chair of the King County Council; Alice Wolدت, Executive Director, Washington Association of Churches*; Pramila Jayapal, Executive Director, OneAmerica; Juan Jose Bocanegra, El Comité Pro-Reforma Migratoria y Justicia Social; Angela Ying, Pastor, Bethany United Church of Christ; Rodolfo Franco, President, Washington Federation of State Employees Local 304*; Terri Mast, Secretary-Treasurer, Inlandboatmen’s Union; Jafar Siddiqui, American Muslims of Puget Sound; George Bakan, publisher of Seattle Gay News; Steering Committee of the Seattle National Lawyers Guild; Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation; Freedom Socialist Party; Jane Cutter, ANSWER Seattle; Elmer J. Dixon, cofounder of Seattle Black Panther Party; and many others.

According to Doug Barnes, an initia-

tor of Seattle United Against FBI Repression, “People from a variety of communities have signed the letter because of their concern about FBI raids around the country on peace activists, labor organizers, Palestinian and Colombian solidarity groups, and socialists.” The raids began on Sept. 24, 2010 in Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota. Twenty-three activists have been issued subpoenas to appear before a Grand Jury or face imprisonment.

The letter states, “Here in the Northwest, we have not forgotten the false FBI terrorism charges after 9/11 against the owners of a Somali grocery store and wire service in South Seattle. In 2009, Olympia activists planning nonviolent civil disobedience against the war in Iraq were infiltrated by an Army intelligence agent, who passed information to the FBI, police, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). ...We are also disturbed by the FBI’s renewed targeting of the Muslim community with its so-called ‘sting operations.’...These FBI

entrapment tactics are creating anti-Muslim hysteria in those communities, which should not be the policy of our government.”

The letter concludes, “We are greatly concerned about these threats to our democracy, our First Amendment rights, and the civil liberties of all people who reside in the United States.” Signers ask for a prompt “proactive response” from President Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder.

Local efforts are part of a nationwide mobilization to draw attention to the raids and Grand Jury subpoenas.

Press release from Seattle United Against FBI Repression. 🔥

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Update on State Street 29 perjury charges

Feb 27, 2011

The Matt and Maggi Support Committee is excited to announce that the perjury charges against two of our favorite Olympia activists have been dropped. Matt Duran and Margaret Belknap were arrested at a protest against police violence that took place last April in Olympia. They were rounded up with 27 other people (The State Street 29) in a mass arrest. Several people were singled out for more serious charges including Maggi. She was charged with an assault of an officer, which was a sneaky way of saying “assault *by* an officer” after she was beaten and pepper-balled while fully complying with the instructions given to her by the cops.

Matt and Maggi have history of community service and activism in Olympia. On a weekly basis, you can find them volunteering at Media Island, a local activist networking center and community library located across from the Olympia

Timberland Library. Maggi was a founding member of Port Militarization Resistance, Olympia SDS, and the Olympia Street Medics. She has also been extensively involved in EGYHOP, a street outreach organization. Matt volunteers weekly at the Olympia Food Co-op and has been organizing copwatches in response to events such as Artswalk, prior to which the Olympia Police Department can be found harassing homeless people and violating their rights on a daily basis in order to “clean up” downtown.

At her assault trial, Maggi testified that she didn’t assault the officer as did Matt, who was a witness to her arrest. The prosecution called the alleged victim and one other officer to testify. The witness called by the prosecution, who was standing next to the officer during the arrest proceedings, said he couldn’t say for sure if an assault had occurred. Maggi was acquitted of one charge of assault and convicted of the other.

After serving her time in jail, she and Matt were charged with felony perjury. The charge carries a “suggested sentence” of 6-12 months which is in the same range as crimes such as child molestation, rape, and kidnapping. At this point in time, the Matt and Maggi support committee was formed to raise the approximately \$5,000 in initial legal fees they would need. With this money, they vigorously fought the charges. Meanwhile, we ran a campaign to get people to call the Thurston County Prosecutor’s Office and raise public awareness about this attempt to persecute two effective

activists.

While they didn’t say it outright, it’s clear that the prosecutor’s decision to drop the charges was based on their inability to intimidate our friends, the embarrassing lack of evidence, the public awareness of this politically-motivated case, and the defense lawyers who schooled them.

While the charges have been dropped, we still have approximately \$2,000 in legal fees to pay. This means **we are not done!** We can never recover the time or money that was spent fighting these bogus charges, but we can alleviate their impact by making sure Matt and Maggi don’t have to stay in debt. In times of repression, we must stand by members of our community who are singled out for their activism.

We are asking that people chip in what they can to help cover this final bill. If by some miracle, we receive more money than we need, we will use it to pay for lawyers so other activists in the area who are facing similar repression can have support during their court proceedings.

People can paypal donations to mattandmaggi[at]hotmail.com. If you would like to mail a check, cash, or money order, please find directions and addresses on our website at <http://mattandmaggi.tumblr.com>. You can also find more information about the case, the proceedings, our plans, and our contact info there.

Want to get text updates about the campaign? Text “follow mattandmaggi” (without quotes) to 40404. 🔥

State Street 29 fundraiser album

MC Strife of revolutionary hip hop group Thought Crime Collective has released a new album, “Love & Rage.” L&R is available as a fundraiser for the State Street 29 arrestees to cover legal costs incurred from vindictive and retaliatory prosecutions.

Download 16 songs of “Love & Rage” for free at <http://soundclick.com/strifethoughtcrime>

To pick up the CD, call 919-451-9977 or email anarcho.mutual.aid@gmail.com

From a TCC statement:

“After a long hiatus due to the political repression we faced after an anti-police brutality march in which members of Thought Crime Collective were framed and sentenced to jail time, we are pleased to announce that we have a slew of new projects in the works including a new West Coast full length album tentatively called ‘Spliffs, Fists, & Clips.’ Also we’re glad to announce a new East Coast collaboration EP entitled ‘Revolutionary Suicide’ which should be dropping in the next few months as well!”

For the latest from TCC, go to www.spraygraphic.com/thoughtcrimecollective



MC Strife, State Street 29 arrestee, at the SS29 benefit show on February 26

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

Works In Progress is committed to stories misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream media. We value local, well-researched news stories, accounts of personal experience and reflections by local authors. Opinion pieces, also valued, are often best supported by facts, examples, and sources, and we encourage writers to include these elements to submissions. We’re also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite sources.

If your issue isn’t being covered in Works In Progress, it’s because you aren’t writing about it! (Or haven’t found someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to olywip@gmail.com or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.

Mission Statement

“Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed.”

Anti-Discrimination Clause

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues

WIP is archived on microfilm by the University of Washington Library. Some issues are held in the Timberland Library system. The last five years are online at www.olywip.org

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Jeff Berryhill	Sandia Slaby
Marylea Coday	Sylvia Smith
Mike Coday	Jeff Sowers
C. J. Conner	Wendy Tanowitz
Wally Cuddeford	Pat Tassoni
Teresa Jennings	Diana Valenzuela
Margaret Love	Berd Whitlock
Joe Martineau	Scott Yoos
Maggie Reardon	and room for
Creighton Rose	more...

COVER CREDIT
Presidents’ Day Labor Rally
Dan Kegebein from Sakum, WA
photo: Berd W.

WIP Schedule
Submission Deadline:
March 18
PO Box 295
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Proofreading:
March 25
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Gateways for Incarcerated Youth 15th Anniversary

Incarcerated youth empowered to create a positive future for themselves through youth-driven cultural awareness

15 year reunion
Gateways, based out of The Evergreen State College (Evergreen), has been working directly with residents of Maple Lane and Green Hill Schools since 1996. Maple Lane and Green Hill are maximum-security residential schools for young men, ages 13-21 and part of the Washington State Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA). Offering multiple educational and cultural programs at each institution, Gateways encourages incarcerated youth to pursue education and cultural programming as an alternative lifestyle upon reentry to society.

To celebrate our work and each other, Gateways is planning a weekend reunion on April 29 and 30, 2011. This will include:

- social mingling events
- educational workshops
- artistic expressions
- open-mic
- dance party

Please come and learn more about Gateways and network! This event is free and open to the public. Donations will be collected and used to support programming for incarcerated youth, including covering the cost of books and tuition. We need your presence, participation, and if able, financial support to maintain Gateways' mission and legacy.

Alumni survey
Three Evergreen Masters in Public Administration students are conducting an alumni survey of past Evergreen incarcerated and non-incarcerated students that have participated and earned college credit in Gateways. The outcomes from the survey will be used to promote Gateways and improve programming. Preliminary results of the survey will be shared at the reunion.

If you, or someone you know, has taken Gateways for college credit, please take, or encourage them to take, the alumni survey. Send an email to gateways@evergreen.edu or call (360) 867-6025 to receive either an email copy or a paper of the survey.

Supporting scholarships for incarcerated youth
Incarcerated Youth have a higher proportion of cognitive disorders and are typically behind their peers academi-

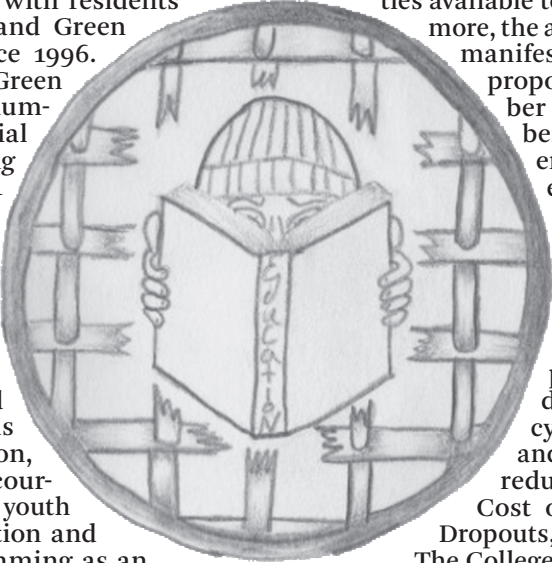
cally (Facts and Figures). After completing their GED/HS Diploma, there are no post-secondary educational opportunities available to them. Furthermore, the achievement gap manifests itself by a disproportionate number of JRA youth being from poverty and racial/ethnic minorities. Through supporting the development of their academic skills and attainment of post-secondary degrees, the cycles of poverty and criminality are reduced (The High Cost of High School Dropouts, 2009).

The College Class allows incarcerated participants the opportunity to work with faculty and students from Evergreen. Evergreen students travel to the institution to work as co-learners with Green Hill and Maple Lane students on a weekly basis during fall, winter, and spring quarters (in 2010, Gateways offered its first summer course). To gain acceptance into the College Class, all incarcerated and non-incarcerated students must complete an application and successfully interview with the Evergreen faculty that teaches the College Class. (Evergreen non-incarcerated students must pass a Washington Department of Social and Health Services background check.)

College credit is a real-world step towards affirming a positive identity. Moreover, it is important for the classroom dynamics between non-incarcerated and incarcerated students to see their learning as equal, substantive, and a serious commitment to themselves and their futures. To this end, Gateways staff is continually seeking money for scholarships. Currently, it takes \$20,000 to cover the cost of books and scholarships for one year (approximately \$450 per quarter for one student). Please visit gateways.evergreen.edu to learn more about the program.

REFERENCES:
Facts and figures. Washington state department of social and health services. Retrieved January 19, 2011 from <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/jra/facts.shtml#jra>
The high cost of high school dropouts: What the nation pays for inadequate high schools. Alliance for excellent education, August 2009. Retrieved January 19, 2011 from <http://www.all4ed.org/files/High-Cost.pdf>

Graphic by an anonymous artist. 🔥



“Gateways class is my motivation to do well and stay out of trouble.”

~Incarcerated Student

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-Berd W.

Rachel Corrie Foundation presents

Peace Works 2011: *Solidarity in Action*

Keynote speaker Alice Walker

April 8-9 • The Evergreen State College

Olympia, Wash. – The Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace & Justice will host its 2011 Peace Works event April 8-9. ***Solidarity in Action*** is a weekend conference featuring acclaimed author and activist Alice Walker as keynote presenter. Walker's talk, entitled ***The Poet/Writer as Activist***, will be at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts, Friday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Best known for her **Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Color Purple* (1982)**, Walker is also the recipient of the National Book Award, and author of more than 30 books. In March 2009, in the wake of Israel's 22-day attack on Gaza, Walker traveled to Gaza with Cindy and Craig Corrie as part of a delegation led by Code Pink. Upon her return, Walker published a book of essays entitled *Overcoming Speechlessness*, which links the struggles for justice in Gaza, Eastern Congo and Rwanda with the U.S. Civil Rights movement and the South Africa anti-Apartheid struggle.

The Peace Works 2011 conference, ***Solidarity in Action***, includes two days of networking, panels and workshops at The Evergreen State College in Olympia. Panelists will address the current situation in Israel/Palestine, strategies for justice and peace, the growing international campaigns for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) and cross-movement building. Local and national organizers will facilitate workshops to educate, motivate and provide tools for community organizing. Workshop themes will include human rights and legal campaigns; consumer, campus, cultural and interfaith BDS efforts; the civil trial in Israel concerning Rachel Corrie's case; and strategies for using media, art and social networking to strengthen regional efforts for human rights and justice. The Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural Project will present the next phase of its downtown Olympia mural, one of the city's most beautiful and successful collaborative projects.

Peace Works is an annual project of The Rachel Corrie Foundation, which continues the work that Rachel Corrie began with her vision, spirit and creative energy in mind.

LOCATION/DATE/TIME

PEACE WORKS CONFERENCE - *Solidarity in Action*: The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Friday, April 8, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, April 9, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For information, updates and registration, check www.rachelcorriefoundation.org/peaceworks/pw2011 or call the Rachel Corrie Foundation at 360-754-3998.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Alice Walker: *The Poet/Writer as Activist*
Washington Center for the Performing Arts
512 Washington St. SE, Olympia, April 8, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 for the general public; \$12.50 for students and the low-income, and will be available at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts; 360-753-8586; <http://www.washingtoncenter.org>

Contact: Rebecca Pilcher, Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice
Email: becca@rachelcorriefoundation.org
Phone: 360-754-3998



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The Industrial Workers of the World is a union for all workers, dedicated to organizing on the job, in our industries, and in our communities. We organize to win better conditions today and to build a world without bosses, a world in which production and distribution are organized by workers to meet the needs of the entire population, not just a handful of exploiters.



The Olympia General Membership Branch of the IWW meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00pm, at the IWW office upstairs at the corner of 4th & Adams.

Feel free to contact us at olywobs@riseup.net. Also, please pick up a free newspaper from our box on the corner of 4th and Washington downtown!

Immigration

It is not just an immigrant's issue

by Jamie Alwine

When hearing the heated debate surrounding immigration issues today, many of us find ourselves asking, “Why is human dignity completely left out of the picture?” In today’s political climate, immigrants are labeled as criminals and treated as such. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) terrorizes communities of color. Immigrants are the scapegoats for an entire failed system of politics and deliberately exploited and used as commodity to support it. The urgency to address these issues, which negatively impact thousands of fellow community members all throughout the South Sound region and millions across the nation, are never discussed by policymakers or government officials. Instead, our government continues to spend billions of tax payer money to increase border security, enforcement and deportations that further reinforces the criminalization and oppression of all communities of color.

While some may not realize how Washington State itself is affected by the anti-immigrant sentiment that is echoed across the nation, House Bill 1577 and Senate Bill 5407 are alarmingly clear examples of what is in store for our state. Washington has been one of two states in the nation, along with New Mexico, that has not—and currently does not—require proof of legal residency to obtain a driver’s license. The implementation of these bills, however, will require that all driver’s license applicants provide a social security number or other form of identification to prove their immigration status.

These bills would create a two-tiered system wherein stamps will be required to differentiate drivers with legal documentation and those without. This system would require new funds for training and implementation. In 2011-2013 alone, HB 1577 is estimated to cost \$6.4 million, and SB 5407 would require \$1.8 million just to process citizenship verification. During the current budget crisis we are facing, where lawmakers are seriously debating “not” votes on basic health, children’s health, state need grants to college students and many other critical services, we absolutely cannot afford the millions of dollars necessary to fund these laws.

The restrictions that HB 1577 and SB 5407 create will cause immigrants to be less likely to interact with law enforcement, even if they are victims of crimes. The trust that one should normally have in law enforcement will be compromised because of the inherent fear of law enforcement that is generated by being an undocumented immigrant. Ultimately, that fear will make it much less likely that immigrants will even report a crime which will make their entire community less safe. Insurance companies will be less likely to cover undocumented drivers and that will, in turn, create an increased number of uninsured and unlicensed drivers.

Ultimately, HB 1577 and SB 5407 will not do anything to fix a broken immigration system. These costly and ineffective bills will only further criminalize immigrants and make conditions unsafe for all of us. The mere proposal of these bills clearly demonstrates the need of government officials and policymakers to find scapegoats for the failing economy; it is imperative that we fight to stop them.

In the past, Washington has earned recognition for promoting policies that protect the well being of all residents. That sentiment was the basis for the formation of the local immigrants’



Photo by Hilary Hacker

rights organization, Bridges Not Walls. Bridges Not Walls is a coalition of community members who unite to address the very issues we face today with bills like HB 1577 and SB 5407. We believe that immigrants, regardless of legal status, deserve to be treated with dignity and that all contributions of immigrants need to be valued and respected. As an immigrants’ rights organization, we oppose the fear and intimidation

Community to Community, and Inmigrantes Unidos de Shelton to organize three Dignity Dialogues in the Olympia and Shelton communities. The Dignity Dialogues are a part of a larger effort called the Dignity Campaign for Real Immigration Reform. This campaign was launched in California in hopes of “raising collective aspirations for immigration reform, rather than limiting our political work to criticizing Congressional proposals that we know reflect corporate America’s need for exploitable labor” (taken from the Dignity Campaign statement). The campaign has been used as an effective educational tool throughout the nation including communities in California, New York, Oregon and now Washington.

The main focus of the Dignity Campaign is to find a real solution concerning immigration legislation that addresses human rights. During the dialogues, we, as a community, dissect three different proposed examples of immigration legislation and learn together where the priorities of policymakers truly lie. When looking at these bills,

caused by such laws and by immigration enforcement in the region. We strive to work in solidarity with the immigrant community through various actions, events and projects.

This last fall, we worked closely with Community United for Dignity, American Friends Service Committee,

Ultimately, HB 1577 and SB 5407 will not do anything to fix a broken immigration system. These costly and ineffective bills will only further criminalize immigrants and make conditions unsafe for all of us.

State budget crises call for a united response by labor unions and communities

by Nancy Reiko Kato

Rickii Ainey, homebound in New Orleans with arthritis, is fighting desperately to keep her Medicaid-funded personal care assistant. Four years ago, she got in-home aid after she tried to commit suicide. Now, the state of Louisiana is planning to institutionalize Ainey, and 11,000 other poor, disabled people as a money saving “solution” to a \$1.6 billion budget gap.

Ainey’s story is the tip of an iceberg. Millions of U.S. residents are confronting equally devastating scenarios as states close a collective \$140 billion shortfall — by unraveling the nation’s social fabric.

The state budget gaps seem mammoth. In truth, they are chump change compared to what the federal government spends on tax breaks for the rich and bloody military occupations.

Obama’s tax cut extensions for the rich cost \$68 billion per year. The Iraq and Afghanistan wars another \$170 billion. Those billions could save every state.

At the state level, politicians add insult to injury. New Jersey Governor Christie vetoed a tax on millionaires. Wisconsin Governor Walker offers tax breaks to businesses that move to his state, even though it’s broke.

In short, while Corporate America banks near record profits, (an annual rate of about \$1.6 trillion) ordinary folks suffer tax/fee hikes, shrinking paychecks, and service cuts.

Organized labor has looked to Democrats to stop this massive theft of wealth from the working class. But both parties are equally guilty. Let’s make the bosses pay for their crisis.

Cuts that kill

A main target of budget cuts is the safety net that helps people of poor and

we found that all legislation is focused on enforcement and militarization of the border, as well as deportation and guest worker programs. The failure of the system to address real issues within immigrant life, like family unity and a path to citizenship, has contributed to the onslaught of bills like HB 1577 and SB 5407 that only further criminalize and isolate immigrant communities.

These efforts have culminated in the writing of the Dignity Bill, of which a draft has been presented to Senator Patty Murray for review. The Dignity Bill promotes immediate legalization of undocumented immigrants, equal rights, and reunification of families. It proposes an end to the militarization of the border and border communities, temporary worker programs, and U.S. trade and foreign policies that cause the dislocation of people. While the general outcome of these dialogues has been very positive, we hope to continue with and rework the dialogues in order to communicate with more communities throughout Washington State. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Dignity Campaign, or would like to learn more about upcoming events, contact Bridges Not Walls at bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net.

There are several other ways to get involved with Bridges Not Walls and the fight against unjust and inhumane immigration legislation. One aspect of immigration legislation that needs to be addressed is that of immigration detention. Bridges Not Walls hosts a solidarity vigil at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington. The Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) is hidden on the industrial tidelflat area of Tacoma, built on top of a former toxic waste dump and Superfund cleanup site. Over 1500 immigrants can be housed at one time in this privately owned, for-profit detention center from all across the nation. The infamous GEO Group (who also operates Guantanamo Bay) consumes \$150,000 of our tax dollars each night that ICE fills the NWDC. At our solidarity vigils, we invite the community to come provide support and solidarity to families and friends visiting loved ones inside. Many visitors face very long drives to and from the detention center, long waits inside, and emotionally trying, no-contact visits. We provide food, coffee, conversation, and legal resources to those visiting. If you are interested in participating, the carpool departs the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural (State and Capitol in downtown Olympia) at 11 am every third Saturday of the month.

Bridges Not Walls meets twice each month on Sunday late afternoons, alternating between Olympia and Shelton. We invite you to get involved; contact us at bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net or 503-970-3399.

Jamie Alwine is a Bridges Not Walls member and Evergreen student. 🔥

modest means survive. Many programs, already slashed to the bone, now face elimination.

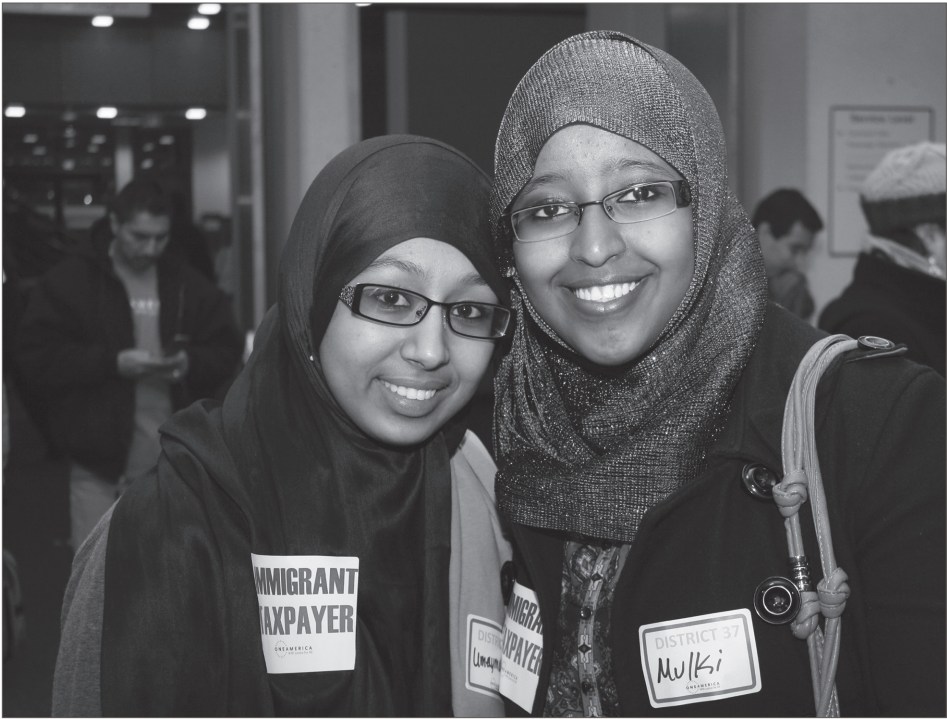
Texas, which already ranks 49th in the U.S. for mental health spending, plans to cut \$134 million more. Oklahoma is making more reductions to its child abuse prevention programs. Georgia is downsizing staff who help people apply for food stamps and Medicaid.

Massachusetts dumped a health program for poor immigrants, and cut 6 percent from HIV/AIDS prevention. Kansas eliminated dental services to seniors and people with disabilities. Michigan, with the top unemployment rate, slashed “No Worker Left Behind” by 38 percent. The program enabled 75 percent of participants to find jobs.

Hiking higher-ed costs is another popular move. This, despite tuition costs rising 500 percent from 1983 to 2008! Florida is raising university tuition by 32 per-

➤ **CONTINUED** on next page

Immigrant and Refugee Communities Targeted this Legislative Session



by Charlie McAteer

Washington State has historically made a commitment to the well-being of our immigrant communities by protecting their civil rights through progressive legislation and by providing them with equal access to a range of services. The 2011 Legislative session reveals that this commitment is in jeopardy with bills that unfairly target them and budget proposals that eviscerate – in some cases eliminate – programs serving immigrant communities.

Immigrant and refugee communities are prepared to share in the sacrifices required by our dire budget situation, but OneAmerica – the state’s largest immigrant advocacy organization – believes they should not bear the disproportionate share of cuts.

Governor Gregoire proposed elimination of several programs which provide:

- Food assistance to 31,000 very low-income immigrants.
- Interpreter services for Medicaid clients and their health care providers which help ensure effective communication about the patients’ health care needs and appropriate treatment.
- Preventative health care for 27,000 undocumented immigrant children.
- Employment and training services and English language instruction to help refugees find jobs.
- DSHS’s Naturalization Program which has helped thousands of legal permanent immigrants attain citizenship.

Taking out our state’s budget shortfall on immigrants ignores the key contributions they make to our economy. Although immigrants make up 12% of Washington’s population, they make up 14% of our workforce (since they are generally younger and healthier than native-born residents) and pay 13.2% (\$1.48 billion) of the state’s taxes (2007 figures).

Until now, Washington State values and common sense have ensured that access to a driver’s license is based upon successfully passing a driver’s test, not a citizenship test. However, there are several bills proposed in the Legislature that would restrict or eliminate driver’s licenses for undocumented immigrants.

Senate Bill 5407 and House Bill 1577 are two such bills and have already had public hearings where the opposition far outnumbered supporters, yet they appear to be moving forward. Under this new regime, undocumented immigrants will end up driving without licenses since their livelihoods depend on it. Yet without licenses they won’t have access to auto insurance. Since everyone is safer when all drivers are licensed and insured, the Legislature should stay focused on road safety and let Congress deal with immigration policy.

We’re fighting back. On Wednesday, February 9, over 400 immigrants, refugees, and advocates traveled from every corner of the state to speak up for our communities at OneAmerica’s “Immigrants’ Day at the Capitol.” Our group represented 41 of Washington’s 49 legislative districts, featured over 100 youth, and held meetings with over 120 Legislators. Many had never spoken with a legislator before. But after training with OneAmerica organizers and peers, followed by a massive rally in the Capitol rotunda, they jumped in. As one participant said, “At first I was so nervous, my legs were shaking! But then I started talking and it was fine!”

Immigrants and refugees are our neighbors, friends, family, and co-workers. They work, study, pay taxes, support local businesses and start their own businesses. They are vital to the economic and social well-being of our state. These proposed budget cuts are cruel, shortsighted and harmful to immigrants and our state. OneAmerica urges your opposition to these budget cuts.

Please take action and contact Washington State Legislators at 1-800-562-6000 and ask them to protect our immigrant and refugee communities.

For more info go to One America’s website: www.weareoneamerica.org.

Charlie McAteer is the director of One America Communications in Seattle. 🔥

► **CONTINUED** from previous page
cent over two years. In Minnesota, 9,400 students lost financial aid grants.

Public schools are equally under siege. Arizona slashed funding for kindergarten programs by half and Colorado is spending \$400 less per student.

Open season on unions

To hear right-wing pundits tell it, states are bankrupt because of “over-paid public workers.”

Just two years ago, national furor was correctly directed at Wall Street, large banks and big business. But capitalist politicians and news outlets are working overtime to redirect outrage at public-sector unions. This campaign is captured in unionbusting attacks, such as by Ohio Governor Kasich, who wants to ban unionization for 14,000 childcare and homecare staff, and fire state workers who strike. Or Wisconsin Governor Walker who plans to eliminate the right of government workers to form unions.

Neoliberalism is the economics behind this assault. It’s a strategy for maximizing profits for corporations on a global scale, and privatization of public services is key. What better way to accomplish this than to bankrupt government in the process of bailing out big business?!

Democrats and Republicans are “re-designing” government while capitalist economists talk about the “new normal” of “post-recession” America. So far, there appears to be no bottom for how ugly that new reality will be for the U.S. working class. With the politicians and bosses aiming their nukes at the public

sector, organized labor has two options: fight or die.

The good news is that labor can still fight and win if it reaches out and builds alliances with the community — now. As the organized expression of the working class, labor has the capacity to mobilize the masses. Likewise, the masses have self-interest in allying with labor.

The American Federation of Labor-

A main target of budget cuts is the safety net that helps people of poor and modest means survive. Many programs, already slashed to the bone, now face elimination.

Congress of Industrial Organizations spent over \$200 million in the 2010 elections to reach 17 million union members. But this money was wasted on Democrats. Imagine redirecting all that energy into building a labor/community alliance to save public services.

Rank-and-file unionists can’t wait for top officials to set this into motion. Leadership must come from the bottom, through worker-radicals of all stripes.

An example of this is in Washington, where Sisters Organize for Survival, a campaign initiated by Radical Women, has petitioned the State Labor Council to “mobilize a mass labor/community rally against budget cuts.” For more info see SistersOrganizeforSurvival.org.

Make global revolt the “new norm”

On every continent, workers are using general strikes to combat austerity measures. U.S. labor also has a history of using general strikes to fight, and it’s time to employ this weapon again.

With unions only a fraction of the workforce, the AFL-CIO and Change to

Win need to reach the entire working class. A demand to do this is “30 for 40.” Popularized by socialists in the Great Depression, this slogan addresses the lack of jobs. As today’s Great Recession winds on, the demand of 30 hours work for 40 hours pay makes total sense. After all, workers’ productivity has risen 400 percent since 1950.

Some might say that 30 for 40 is too pie-in-the sky. And it’s true that bosses often threaten to move jobs when workers get too uppity. But workers are uppity everywhere these days.

What can put Corporate America on the hook, and win 30 for 40, is a double punch of general strikes on the home front and international solidarity with striking workers in other countries to raise standards globally.

Thanks to work stoppages and mass protests from Greece to Tunisia, 2011 is looking promising. The U.S. has been

slow to join this global revolt, but a spark from labor could quickly fire things up. Nancy Reiko Kato, a University of California employee, can be reached at nrkato@rocketmail.com.

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Bigoted emails to King County Metro

More email responses are reprinted with court submissions, available at www.aclu-wa.org

I consider the proposed ads on your buses anti Jewish as well as anti-Israel. I think I will organize a group to “riot” at your bus stops. If I took ads out against the fundamentalist Islamists -- you wouldn’t accept it.. would you? for fear of a riot. Maybe the Jewish population should change their behavior. We have ignored this for too long.. those who do not remember history will repeat it. Never Again!

If you go through with accepting those islamist racist trash ads against isreal this monday, my wife and I will give up using the metro to commute. AND SO HELP ME GOD I BETTER NOT SEE ONE OF THOSE ADS ON A BUS. I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL MYSELF. IM NOT SURE. SEATTLE = NAZI’S

I am concerned abotu the ads and I would not like them to be run. The ads can insight violence and cause murders. You are endangering innocent lives. [sic]

I just heard about your “paid off” decision to place anti-Jewish propaganda on select buses throughout King County transit routes. So you suggest that these “advertisements” are not inciteful, huh? Maybe you should take note that you just “incited” ME to anger all the way from Austin, Texas! You want WAR against the Jewish people??? YOU GOT IT!

Running these slanderous ads will only foment hatred and violence. Israel is under constant murderous attack and must take steps in self-defense. No nation takes more steps to prevent civilian injury than Israel. The violence which will result from running these ads will make you responsible, by proxy for the results. You will have blood on your hands.

The philistines gave up their right to be a country at the Berlin Olympics. They have no right to advertise their vile agenda on public transit in this country. I will personally throw paint at any such sign, and stand and wait for prosecution -- I want a forum in court!

This is outrageous. Jewish lives are at stake. Many have already been beaten up. What’s next, KKK ads. I will never visit Seattle.

I just now heard of your plans to run ads on some buses against Israel. You are crazy! Let’s see you fools run some anti-Islam ads. You wouldn’t dare, because they would bomb your pathetic asses, and you f’n know it!

I think it’s disgusting, frightening. It reminds me of the Nazi persecution of Jews. We don’t have anti Catholic or anti Budhist ads. Its an insulting and racist piece.

YOU ARE TRULLY DISGUSTING AND DESPICABLE.....AND JUST REMEMBER “KARMA” what comes around goes around!!!! Oh, and by the way, if you dumb asses at the King County Metro pull more shit!! We will be on you like stink on a monkey!!! CAUSE GUESS WHAT, WE JEWS ARE NOT THE SAME AS THE JEWS OF EUROPE DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR!! WE GET PISSSED OFF, WE TAKE ACTION!!! DO NOT EMAIL ME BACK, UNLESS YOU TAKE DOWN YOUR DIRTY ADS!!! WTF!! WERE YOU THINKING!!!!!! DO MUSLIMS RUN THE METRO TOO!!!!!! TAKE THE ADS DOWN!!! TAKE THEM DOWN NOW!!!



► **ISRAEL**, continued from page 1
KING 5 website and on YouTube.

Feedback

Not long after the KING 5 story aired, King County Metro was inundated with vitriolic calls and emails, some of which came from outside Washington State. (See sidebar for many of these emails.) According to Carri Brezonick, supervisor of Metro’s Customer Information Office, the office normally handles 50-80 emails a day. However, after the news story, the office was inundated with over 6,000 emails over a 10 day span. In written testimony, Brezonick described the situation as:

“The Call Center routinely receives communication from unhappy customers, but the calls, emails and letters received regarding the SeaMAC Ad were overall more aggressive and angrier than the usual complaints. The communication ranged from passionate to belligerent, condescending and insulting. The messages and language used by some of the callers was hateful, accusatory and full of expletives.”

There were three recurring themes in many of these emails. First was the use of the term “riot.” One emailer said “I urge Metro not to use the ad as it could cause riots,” while another suggested “I think I will organize a group to ‘riot’ at your bus stops.” The second theme was frequent references to, and direct threats of, vandalism against the ads and against Metro buses. And third, many respondents invoked violent rhetoric. Some suggested either that they themselves would become violent, or that violence would ensue, and that the public’s safety would then be put at risk. Others told Metro they would stay away from riding Metro buses, allegedly out of fear of violence associated with the ads. (Recall that Metro policy specifically allowed for the termination of an ad if it appeared it could cause riots, inspire vandalism, or result in violence or risk to public safety.)

Kevin Desmond, General Manager of Metro, said of the situation, “The controversy overwhelmed my staff and consumed virtually all of my work time during the week of December 20, 2010.” Carri Brezonick said “The volume of complaints about the SeaMAC Ad considerably impacted the ability of the Call Center to respond to routine customer inquiries in the normal course of business.” Jill Krecklow, Finance Manager for Metro, estimated the administrative cost of the backlash was \$25,000, an amount which Desmond described as “far in excess of the revenue generated by running the ads, thus defeating the purpose of the advertising program.”

Racism and fearmongering

On the morning of December 20, a Metro security guard found several disturbing photos, which had been shoved under the front door of the Metro Customer Service Center. The photos were of exploded buses, presumably in Israel, along with dead and bleeding bodies. Written on the photographs were the words “NO TO BUS ADS FOR MUSLIM TERRORISTS,” along with the names “Taniguchi” and “Desmond” (King County Department of Transportation Director, and Metro General Manager, respectively).

Racist rhetoric was a frequent theme in much of the response. One emailer called the ads “islamist racist trash.” [sic] Another asked “DO MUSLIMS RUN THE METRO TOO!!!” [sic] Another said of the “philistines,” as he called them, “They have no right to advertise their vile agenda on public transit in this country.” In a tragic irony, some respondents accused Metro of engaging in anti-Semitism by agreeing to run the ads – an analysis which would require a logical

The KING 5 “exclusive” segment (meaning, no other station in Seattle reported on the ad) referred to the advertisement as “blasting Israel and U.S. support for Israel,” and said the ad was “sure to generate controversy.”

extrapolation based on the disputed idea that the state of Israel and the Jewish people are equivalent – while at the same time indicating no compunction whatsoever about openly engaging in vile forms of racism, stereotyping and fearmongering against Arabs and/or Muslims.

Not long after the ad controversy became a national story, two Zionist groups responded by buying ads of their own – both in quantities larger than the original “Israeli war crimes” ad would have run. One ad, purchased by the Horowitz Freedom Center, had a photo of a blown up bus, with the caption “Palestinian war crimes – Your tax dollars at work” – the message being that the \$30 billion are intended to protect Israel from Palestinian attacks. The fact that this ad, with the image of a blown out bus, was proposed to be displayed *on the side of a bus*, was apparently intended to provoke a visceral response, as well as to play off peoples’ fears, both of terrorism and of race through invoking racial stereotypes. The “Israeli war crimes” ad, on the other hand, used the image of a crumbled building, which was mild compared to what SeaMAC could have chosen, if its only objective was to provoke a violent reaction.

What was not at all ambiguous was the other ad, purchased by Pamela Geller,

“The communication ranged from passionate to belligerent, condescending and insulting. The messages and language used by some of the callers was hateful, accusatory and full of expletives.”

co-founder of American Freedom Defense Initiative / Stop Islamization of America, and organizer of the protests against the Manhattan Muslim community center last year. The ad contained photoshopped images juxtaposing Arabs with Adolf Hitler, along with the words “In any war between the civilized man and the savage, support the civilized man. Support Israel. Defeat Islamic Jihad.” The unspoken message behind this ad is, “If they can say Israel is guilty of war crimes, and that doesn’t count as hate speech, then I can call Arabs ‘savages’ and compare them to Adolf Hitler, and that doesn’t count as hate speech either.” Dow Constantine said of the two counter-ads, “When I saw the text and graphics of the Counter-Ads it became apparent to me that the Counter-Ads would almost certainly intensify public unease.” However, at this point, with the

vitriolic and abusive backlash only intensifying, Constantine was put in the position of either having to accept both the counter-ads (when one, if not both, would have been denied under normal circumstances as genuine hate speech), or intensify the abuse, both against him and against the city employees underneath his supervision.

Influence from within

From the information available, most employees and officials with King County and with Metro were non-partisan on the issue of Israel/Palestine, and were simply responding to a difficult and abusive situation as best they could. However, while King County Metro was besieged by hostility from without, there appear to have been some individuals trying to further their own agenda from within.

Most notably was Michael DeCapua, Homeland Security Manager for King County Metro. In his written testimony, DeCapua recalls his involvement in these events:

“On the morning of December 22, 2010, I became aware that information concerning the proposed SeaMAC advertisements had been posted on an English language website published by the Ezzedeen Al-Qassam Brigades Information Office and on Twitter. The Al-Qassam Brigades holds itself out as the armed branch of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas). [...] In my opinion, as Homeland Security Manager for Metro and based on my intelligence background, the fact that information about the SeaMAC advertisements was appearing on the website of a known terrorist organization, raised Metro’s visibility to terrorist groups.”

Further examination reveals flaws with DeCapua’s premise. The Internet posting he linked to is on the English website for the Ezzedeen al-Qassam Brigades, www.qassam.ps. DeCapua’s narrative suggests this website is a hub for terrorists selecting targets and plotting attacks. In reality, it’s a media relations website, with a dedicated news tab. Several news stories are posted each day, on local Gaza news and on world events relating to Palestine.

Titles of some of the articles posted to the site include “Israeli warplanes strike Gaza at midnight,” “Reporter tries to place Lieberman under citizens arrest” (referring to an incident in Brussels), and “Israel sentences Palestinian child [to] 15 years.” The news story on the bus ads was copied directly from the KING 5 website. While the al-Qassam website has comment capability, and users comment on many of the news stories on the site, the story about the Seattle bus ads did not receive any comments. Additionally, none of the follow-up stories on the controversy were ever posted. Finally, the al-Qassam Brigades themselves are the military wing of the political party Hamas. Neither has even conducted any attack on any target outside the Israel-Palestine region, nor given any indication they would. DeCapua’s narrative would seem to conflate Hamas with a global terrorist organization like al-Qaeda, which has **no relation** to Hamas or al-Qassam whatsoever.

Along with DeCapua came another dubious narrative, this time from Paul Bachtel, President of the local transit workers union (ATU 587). Bachtel told Kevin Desmond that several drivers were

► **PALESTINE**, continued on page 13

Anti-BDS blogger tells a fishy tale about Olympia

Boycott
Divestment
Sanctions

If all Jon wanted was a fantasy, "Desire Video" was just across the street.

"First and only food co-op" is rather selective, when you consider the stores, companies, universities, artists and trade unions around the world who have openly boycotted or divested from Israel. The Food Co-op wasn't even the first institution *in Olympia* to join BDS! We're waiting for Jon to say "Those BDSers talk and talk, and they still haven't convinced even a single all-night gym to boycott Israel!"

We went back through his blog. Apparently, when he says the boycott was passed "in contravention of the organization's own rules," what he means is that the Board intervened to resolve an issue on which the staff could not come to consensus, and came to a decision on the issue (and did so unanimously). Unfortunately for Jon, that's precisely how the process is spelled out in the Co-op bylaws. What do you wanna bet that, at a consensus meeting, Jon's the guy who just talks and talks and talks until he finally gets his way?

What happens is, when anything manifests in support of Palestine, some defenders of Israel lash out in beligerence or even violence, and then other defenders of Israel (or sometimes the same ones) turn and blame that violence on supporters of Palestine - or even on Palestinians themselves, half a world away. But if anything was "unleashed" on Olympia, it was the ugly bigotry of the anti-boycott side, both locally and from outside agitators.

As usual, the ones who actually bore the brunt of bullying (without much recognition) were local Arabs and Muslims, some of whom were personally accused of fomenting racial hatred, even if they had nothing to do with the boycott. Along with them were local pro-boycott Jews, who received hundreds of death threats via telephone. And let's not forget our much appreciated Co-op staffers and volunteers, who regardless of their position on the boycott were besieged for weeks by combative Zionists looking to take their anger out on anyone available.

This isn't Olympia-related, but ... "Palestinian Hasbarah"? Apparently, Jon just *made that one up!* It's strange, him using the official term for Israeli propaganda as a *perjorative* against Palestine. It just seems vaguely like a White southerner trying to defend segregation by accusing Blacks of "reverse-segregation."

Close your eyes, and imagine a mural that juxtaposes the plight of Palestinians with that of Native Americans. Chances are, what you imagined looks nothing like the Olympia-Rafah Mural downtown.

Jon Haber couldn't possibly have seen BDS activists at Evergreen, signing people up for the Co-op election, if for no other reason, then because the election was over several months before he came to visit. One might wonder, what's the point of flying across the country when you're just going to make stuff up once you get here? (Ah, to validate the fiction, of course.)

Zionist politics rely on obscuring the truth. And the easiest way to obscure the truth is to simply tell a different version of events. When armed commandos board a humanitarian vessel in international waters and kill ten activists, just tell everyone that unarmed peacekeepers were just dropping in to ask questions when violent terrorists attacked first, attacked last, and attacked in between, forcing the peacekeepers (who suddenly *found* weapons) to kill their attackers regretfully and in self-defense - and don't forget to remind everyone that Turkey funds terrorism and that Gaza is a hotbed for IRA separatists and that Islam will eat your children. As long as you stick to your story (and as long as you destroy or suppress the evidence), it will always be your word against theirs.

While we in Olympia are usually in the position of having to deduce the truth in spite of Israeli propaganda, a popular Zionist blogger from Massachusetts has given us the opportunity to see the other side of that curtain, by giving us *his own version* of the events surrounding last year's decision by the Olympia Food Co-op to boycott Israeli products:

Jon Haber - www.divestthis.com
My Visit to Olympia
February 12, 2011

Well I just flew in from Olympia Washington. And boy are my arms tired!

I've been waiting for a trip to Washington state to materialize, both to spend time at "Ground Zero" of the BDS "movement" (or "BDSM" as a friend recommended re-branding it) and to give me an opening to use the gag that starts this piece (which I've been told was originally composed in hieroglyphics in 4004 BC).

Sorry... where was I? Oh yes, Olympia!

For those of you tuning in late, Olympia Washington is the location of the first (and only) food co-op to boycott Israeli goods. Since that boycott was enacted (as usual, behind the backs of the membership and in contravention of the organization's own rules), other co-ops that were asked to follow Olympia's lead instead fled from the boycotter's blandishments appalled at what BDS unleashed upon the Olympia community.

I had the chance to meet with members of that community, some of the citizens of Olympia and members (or former members) of the Co-op who have had to bear the brunt of anti-Israel bullying in the area for years. Olympia represents one of those few small pockets in the country where individuals and organizations holding anti-Israel sentiments have the majority (or at least the upper hand). And, as a result, there does not seem to be a single institution in town that remains un-infiltrated by "Israel-is-Always-Wrong" Palestinian Hasbarah.

Go to the movies and you'll see signs for the Middle East film festival which, unsurprisingly, features a Middle East consisting entirely of Israeli gargoyles and Palestinian virgins. Take a walk down Main Street and see a lovely mural juxtaposing Israeli treatment of Arabs and European treatment of Native Americans (subtle). Go to Evergreen College and watch local BDSers collecting signatures from students who never have (and never will) set foot in the

Olympia Food Co-op on two documents: the first, a free co-op membership sign-up form, the second a ballot allowing these freshly minted members to cast ballots for the pro-boycott slate running in recent Co-ops board-of-director elections.

That last sentence may need some further elaboration. You see, once the previous board rammed the boycott down the throat of the membership, some board

members started to at least think about the mayhem they had unleashed. And so elections for a new board could have become a referendum on the boycott.

Except they didn't. Partly because anti-boycott forces decided to maintain a non-confrontational stance (which included not endorsing any candidates solely because of their position on the boycott), and partly because pro-boycott forces decided to play it safe by simply changing the rules (again), making it possible for the first time for

people (i.e., Evergreen students) to join the Co-op without physically visiting the store. With that rule change in place, it was a simple matter to recruit students to simultaneously become members then vote in a pro-boycott slate for an organization they will probably never visit.

Now I actually don't have a big problem with people playing hardball, Chicago-style politics, even in a situation where only one side has chosen to treat a local controversy like a knife fight.

It's just that ever since this board election took place, BDSers have been bellowing about how it represents the will of the membership (i.e., that this manipulated board vote somehow substitutes for the utter lack of community involvement in the original boycott decision). As stated earlier, if the boycotters are ready, willing and able to do whatever it takes to have their way, rules be damned and regardless of the impact on their community, so be it. So long as they don't get annoyed when the rest of us roll our eyes when such manipulation is portrayed as some kind of honest referendum, much less the conscience of a community the BDSers continue to screw.

If everyone was blindly voting for the BDS slate of candidates, without knowledge of who it was they were voting for, how did Eric Mapes receive 545 votes, and TJ Johnson receive 693 votes (over 25% more)? You could say people simply knew TJ Johnson's name from his years of service on the City Council, but ... that was three years ago.

Jon sure knows an awful lot about what other people are thinking. Maybe he's been taking mind-reading lessons from Ramtha.

"Non-confrontational?" If you're going to lie, at least try harder.

If, by "not endorsing any candidates," you mean *actively recruiting* anti-boycott candidates at *every opportunity*, and eventually fielding exactly five candidates (for five positions), four of whom were very elusive when asked where exactly they stood on the boycott of Israeli products or on the future of the general boycott policy. (Susan Trinin was the only one to be up front with her position.) Too bad for the other four, some of them had already outed themselves online as fiercely anti-BDS and intent on overturning the boycott. That Internet'll get ya every time!

And since when did piss poor organizing became a *virtue*? (When you lose, I guess.)

Rules change? This was the first we'd heard of any change in Co-op policy for the board election - let alone one attributable to "pro-boycott forces." We did our due diligence, we contacted people who might know of any rules changes, we even went back through Jon's own blog to see if he'd ever made mention of any rules change before now, and we soon realized that, yeah, we'd been punk'd. Hey, sometimes even the best of us get caught up investigating Zionists' dime-a-dozen claims.

Sir, your grapes! They have gone quite sour! Might I recommend some fresh organic grapes at our community Food Cooperative? *They're genocide-freeeeeeeeeeee.....*

BDS organizers *are* the community - as are the local boycott opponents. If there are consequences for the community, BDS organizers and supporters are as affected as anyone else. Zionists, on the other hand, would have you believe any pain is theirs and theirs alone.



Jon Haber, author of the anti-BDS blog divestthis.com, who stayed just long enough to get this photo taken at the Eastside Co-op

Did you know... ?

College students *never* shop at the Food Co-op!

Notice how readily Jon will speak on behalf of Olympia. Just like how, on his blog, Jon feels entitled to speak on behalf of Palestinian queers, or Arab women, or South Africans (re: the apartheid analogy), whenever it suits his purpose.

Co-op election results

In case anyone forgot

- 693 votes - TJ Johnson (pro-boycott)
- 635 votes - Rochelle Gause (pro-boycott)
- 568 votes - Erin Genia (pro-boycott)
- 551 votes - John Regan (pro-boycott)
- 545 votes - Eric Mapes (pro-boycott)

First runner-up: Susan Trinin (anti-boycott), 315 votes



by Adam Keller

Adam Keller is a long-time Israeli peace activist and the spokesperson for Gush Shalom, an organization that calls for a Palestinian state with pre-1967 borders. What follows is an excerpt from his blog "Crazy Country." You can follow his blog at adam-keller2.blogspot.com.

From darkness to light

It happens again and again in history, and each time it comes as a surprise. People endure severe repression for decades, sometimes centuries, and see no choice but resignation, with the ruling power crushing anybody who dares to protest or revolt. And suddenly, without anyone expecting or predicting it, a spark sets off a great conflagration. The oppressed wake up and unite and rebel and discover how powerful they are. Suddenly the chains break and the apparatus of oppression is smashed to pieces and falls down and those who were oppressed yesterday breathe the intoxicating air of emancipation.

So it must have been in 1789 in Paris when the crowds stormed the grim fortress and prison called the Bastille. So in the Berlin of 1989 when thousands of enthusiastic youths people celebrated at the top of the Wall where just days before anyone approaching faced being shot to death forthwith. One of the first known cases in human history was in Egypt thousands of years ago, when a subversive revolutionary named Moses led an enslaved people to face one of the great empires of the time and come

out from slavery to liberty, from oppression to redemption, from mourning into celebration, from darkness into a great light, as we are reminded in the Hagada of Passover. And again, this very day at Tahrir Square, Liberation Square, in the heart of Cairo, where the millions gathered to overthrow the rule of tyranny.

Who can oppose the demand and aspiration of the massed Egyptians - young and old, men and woman, secular and religious, Muslims and Christians - to change their lives and live in a democracy and win basic rights? Who can object their having the same rights which citizens of Israel take for granted - the right to freely express their opinions, to organize politically as they please and choose their own government and parliament in free and democratic elections?

Who can object to that? In the state of Israel many can and do, a lot of politicians and journalists and commentators and experts until a week ago never imagined what was about to happen in their field of experience. All as one they express concern and worry and anxiety over the spectre which is haunting the Middle East — the spectre of democracy, the fierce storm blowing out of the streets of Cairo and Alexandria and Suez and the other cities of Egypt. Democracy? In Egypt? In an Arab country? What a disaster, what a nightmare, a real nightmare!

Indeed, who can tell what will happen if free elections are held in the land of the Nile? Truly free elections, truly democratic elections to which all candidates can present themselves and all parties contest in a country with eighty million citizens? Who can tell? That's the problem with free elections. You can only be sure of the result after all votes had been counted.

Certainly, there is no certainty and no guarantee that in free and democratic elections – in Egypt or in any other country – it will always be good and worthy candidates who get elected. Here in our State of Israel, which until now boasted of being the only democracy in the Middle East, one can see a living example of how fanatic religious nationalists can penetrate the political system and gain power and influence far beyond their numbers. Also a very concrete example of how a racist demagogue can establish a political party and conduct a campaign of pure incitement and gaining the role of Minister of Foreign Affairs immediately following the elections. On this very day we saw at Knesset in Jerusalem how parliamentarians duly elected in democratic elections can engage in a witch hunt and attempt to gag Human Rights organizations and try to undermine the democratic system in which they were elected.

And still, with all the faults and difficulties, Winston Churchill said of Democracy: It is the worst form of government, except for all those other forms that have been tried.”

Congratulations, Democratic Egypt

which was born today! Congratulations from the depths of the heart!

And what about the peace?

“Only Hosni Mubarak and the members of his close associates are truly committed to the peace between Egypt and Israel. If power passes out of this circle, the peace will be in great danger,” written in the pages of *Yediot Ahronot* by one of the experts who are so confused and at a loss over the past week.

Indeed, already for many years the peace between Israel and Egypt is a cold peace, a peace without a soul, a peace with the regime and not with the Egyptian people. This; for a clear and manifest reason - the continued occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people by Israel. In his historic speech in the Knesset thirty-three years ago, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat called for an end of the occupation and peace between Israel and the Palestinians, seeking to bring down the psychological walls separating the two peoples. Successive Israeli governments instead insisted on the repression of the Palestinians. From the Sabra and Shatila Massacre, a bare few months after the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty was implemented, to the bombing and mass killing in Gaza during the “Cast Lead” war, Egyptian citizens have witnessed on their screens scenes of horror which made them regard their country’s peace with Israel as a disgusting phenomenon.

At this moment, the struggle going on in the streets of Egyptian cities is mainly directed inwards, aimed at a deep change in the regime and society, and relations with Israel play only a marginal part in it. Only by at long last ending the occupation and reaching peace with the Palestinians can Israel preserve and even strengthen the peace with Egypt, under whatever government and regime will emerge from the current popular struggle. 🔥

When young people talk to each other and listen, they wonder why there is war

February 25, 2011, Olympia, WA

It started with 60 Olympia High School students and twelve members of the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers (AYPVs) in early November 2009. Then again, February 25, 2011, 80 youth - 50 in Chicago, Illinois with 30 in Phoenix, Arizona – carried on this emerging tradition of young people listening to each other globally.

“What has it been like in Afghanistan,

since...since 9/11?” asked a student from Phoenix. Mohammed Jan thought back to when he first became aware of ‘right and wrong’ – he was about seven years old – and the Russians had been gone for a few years. Taliban groups then came through his home near Bamiyan Center and killed his brother-in-law. Then the US and NATO troops came and it is a memory, his whole life, is a memory of war.

From the teacher in Chicago, Ed Juillard, came these comments after the

Skype-call, “today impacted our kids big time. We had people tearing up (crying during the exchange) they were so moved. I will be working on tripling or quadrupling the number next time. For now be assured of prayers of gratitude [for the continuation of these calls].”

The Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers also have been speaking with Shereef, an Egyptian living near Cairo, about the “revolution” that occurred through the networking of students, workers, and ordinary Egyptians gathering in Tahrir Square. Shereef explains that many Egyptians were also wondering if the non-violent approach would hold up with so many involved and for so many days. “There had been such oppression,” he said, “and, for so long that we were holding our breath – hoping, praying that there would be no violence. But, we have been used to being non-violent – the Regime had a history of being very forceful even with non-violent demonstrations.”

each other’s spirits in spite of the ongoing violence occurring in Afghanistan and Palestine. All of them are working to promote non-violent options for the war-torn parts of the world.

One of the Palestinians, a worker at the Rachel Corrie Children’s Center in Rafah, has been talking with the AYPVs for six months now. The exchanges have been helpful to him and the Afghan youth in ways only those living in war zones can understand. During the December 2010 Global Day of Listening, we heard Afghans boldly discussing their full range of concerns. Several of them opening themselves to listening from a different vantage point. Then the young Palestinian man shared his personal anguish upon losing a friend to war the day before. Distraught he was comforted by his friends in Afghanistan, and as he left the call a young woman from the Democratic Republic of the Congo was inspired to exchange her stories with the youth gathered in Kabul. Her escape from following the raping and killing around her were then followed by the story of a young man who lived through the tragedies in Rwanda. The Rwandan man shared: “I understand that what you are going through is horrible, and that the experience of being surrounded by such evil can make you wonder if you can go on living; . . . but, we do wake up again to another day. And we have dreams, and they are dreams we can work for; and I will work for the dreams with you.”

There are not words adequate to describe the depths one feels during this kind of conversation. The shared appreciation between these young survivors, from lands where the killing continues today, brings an appreciation for life.

Please come to the next Global Day of Listening “Live without wars.” Bring your friends. 🔥

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Singing Bowl Concert

1 - 3 pm

Sunday, MARCH 20, 2011



On Monday the 21st, workers from across the state spent their holiday at the Capitol, joined by Dennis Kucinich, in protest of Wisconsin Governor Walker's attempt to destroy his state's public sector union. (Photos above by Bethel Prescott.)

Solidarity with Wisconsin



On Saturday the 26th, the spirit of Wisconsin was back (this time, with the weather). Tea Partiers announced they would hold a pro-Walker rally, and so the labor community returned, outnumbering the teabaggers by over 10-to-1. (Photos below by Berd W.)

▶ **DRUGS**, continued from page 1

and even entire countries that you may need! I am talking small mountains of \$100 bills filling multiple rooms!

The Bureau of Statistics estimates that the illicit drug trade took somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1.5 trillion last year. In addition, this is not just *any* \$1.5 trillion, this is an *untraceable unregulated and tax-free* \$1.5 trillion, which makes it worth much more than a mere normal on-the-books \$1.5 trillion.

And almost *all* of that money eventually passes through the busy little hands of our intrepid little band and a few of those bills invariably stick to their slimy little hands. \$1.5 trillion represents over 8% of all world trade. Drug trafficking represents 20% of the American economy and 60% of the Mexican economy. To place these figures in perspective, \$1.5 trillion is more than the GNP of all but a half-dozen of the planet's wealthiest industrialized countries. Several American counties depend upon drugs as their major source of their income. Entire nations depend upon drugs as their major source of their income. When entire nations depend upon a highly profitable venture, legal or not, there will be no real efforts to curb it. By making drugs illegal the government instantly transformed cheap, easy to manufacture goods into an incredibly valuable commodity. Thanks to the 'War on Drugs' it now costs pennies to produce a product that sells for hundreds of dollars. In actual production costs it is more expensive to produce a gram of salt than it is to produce a gram of cocaine. Thanks to the 'War on Drugs' 'illicit' drugs have become by far the largest and most profitable enterprise in the world. The Earth's inhabitants spend more money on drugs than they spend on food. They spend more on drugs than they spend on housing; more than they spend on clothing, education, medical care, or any other product or service. When there is that kind of money to be made there will always be people lining up to participate in the drug trade and these people will naturally seek to increase their customer base. Since drug addicts are constantly dying and going to prison, drug dealers saturate our schools to insure a steady supply of new users. Since drugs are so expensive due to their illegality, drug addicts are forced to pillage and plunder our nation in order to support their drug habits. Drug money has completely corrupted large portions of our law enforcement.

ment apparatus; drug dealers make all of the money they need to buy all of the influence they need to assure that no one ever kills their source of income by decriminalizing drugs.

All of this is not due to the drugs themselves; drugs are a relatively minor problem compared to a lot of others that we currently face. These problems are due to the war. Drug dealers shooting people is a result of the war, not of drugs. Drug users stealing and prostituting themselves in order to pay for artificially expensive drugs is a result of the war, not of drugs.

The saturation of our schools with drugs is a result of the war, not of drugs. The diversion of tens of billions of dollars from the prosecution of violent street crime and fraud to the prosecution of hundreds of thousands of non-violent drug sellers and users is a result of the war, not of drugs. The exportation of tens of billions of American dollars to foreign countries each year is a result of the war, not of drugs. The spectacular increase in the income and influence of organized crime is a result of the war, not of drugs. The fact that the 'Land of the Free' now has more people in its prisons — both proportionally and in total numbers — than any other country in the world — including China, an oppressive dictatorship with over four times our population — is a result of the war, not of drugs. The fact that even though Blacks constitute 14% of the population who use and sell drugs, they represent over 50% of the population who are in prison for drugs is a result of the war, not of drugs.

Treatment is a much more effective and humane method of dealing with drug problems than incarceration. In addition it does so at a fraction of the cost and it does so without decimating millions of families. It is much cheaper to send people to college than it is to send them to prison and every study ever done shows money spent on college returns somewhere in the 1,000% to 1,200% range while prisons are a financial black hole representing a very expensive way to make a problem much worse than it was originally. A whole bunch of tax dollars are taken from Everyone Else in the World and given to the Banksters. The Banksters

spend this mountain of money taking a very serious problem and making it exponentially worse and many times as costly as it had been originally. In the War of the Banksters vs. Everyone Else in the Whole World in general and in the 'War on Drugs' in particular, Everyone Else in the Whole World are falling like flies. Those at the bottom of the drug pyramid often spent their lives contributing to the Prison Industrial Complex whilst those at the top are awarded prestigious board seats on various Bankster-owned conglomerations of

ten or fifteen years the newspapers are briefly filled with lurid tales of CIA drug trafficking activities. Then story goes away, no one ever does anything about it, no one ever goes to jail, and it simply continues. For several years major CIA drug shipments were funneled through Mena, Arkansas with Governor Bill Clinton's full knowledge. Drug money was instrumental in Mr. Clinton's successful presidential campaign.

All of this is documented. This information is easy to find. Since I know most people are not stupid I assume

everyone just
doesn't *want* to
see this stuff.

Most of the drug money goes to murderous gangsters; the more murderous they are the

more successful they tend to be. Our Wall Street heroes make their bank, literally, by taking a small cut — but they take this small cut from *all* of it. Virtually every bloody little penny of that \$1.5 trillion passes through their busy little hands on its mysterious and exotic journey through the tax havens and drug dens of the world. The Banksters expertly utilize the enforcement arm of their operation [the government] and the propaganda arm of their operation [the press]. They began conducting the ‘War on Drugs’ in a manner that was highly profitable to them and highly unprofitable to Everyone Else in the Whole World. The ‘War on Drugs’ has caused a plethora of social problems that are exponentially worse by several magnitudes than the problems caused by drug abuse itself. Almost *all* of these costs are due to the fact that the drugs are illicit, not because they are drugs; and make no mistake: These costs are astronomical. Combine the costs to health, families, social services, prisons, cops, military, psychological, so on and so forth ad infinitum — and there is money to be made!

They are vampires! They are a giant leech! They are sucking the Whole Rest of the World bone-dry and killing their

▶ **CONTINUED** on next page

An open letter from lawyers and judges

Though we differ in political orientation and career experience, we unanimously observe that neither drugs nor drug abuse has been eliminated or appreciably reduced, despite massive spending on interdiction and harsh punishments. Attempts at enforcement have clogged the courts, filled the prisons with non-predatory offenders, corrupted officials at home and abroad, bred disrespect for the law in important communities, imperiled the liberties of the people, burdened the taxpayers, impeded public health efforts to stem the spread of HIV and other infectious diseases, and brought the nation no closer to abstinence. We observe that today there are more drugs available in our communities, and at a lower price, than ever before. As Congress and state legislatures enact more punitive and costly drug control measures, we conclude with alarm that the 'War on Drugs' now causes more harm than drug abuse itself.

Judge Morris S. Arnold
US 8th Circuit Court of Appeals
Little Rock, AR

Judge James C. Paine
US 4th Circuit Court of Appeals
St. Paul, MN

Judge Nancy Gertner
US District Court
Boston, MA

Judge Robert W. Sweet
US District Court
New York, NY

Justice William E. Hunt Sr.
Montana Supreme Court
Helena, MT

Judge J. Dickson Phillips Jr.
Minnesota Court of Appeals
St. Paul, MN

Judge Myron H. Bright
US 8th Circuit Court of Appeals
Little Rock, AR

Judge Douglas W. Hillman
US District Court
Grand Rapids, MI

Judge Morris E. Lasker
US District Court

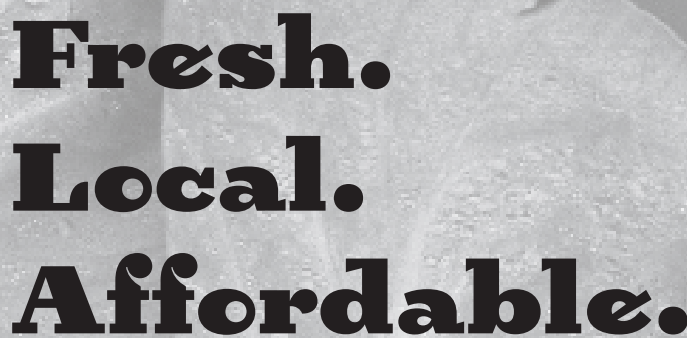
Judge Marvin H. Shoob
US District Court
Atlanta, GA.
New York, NY

Judge R.A. (Jim) Randall
Minnesota Court of Appeals
St. Paul, MN

An Open Letter can be found with additional signatories at <http://vcl.org/openLetter.html>.

The illicit drug trade took somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1.5 trillion last year. In addition, this is not just *any* \$1.5 trillion, this is an *untraceable unregulated and tax-free* \$1.5 trillion .

interwoven business enterprises. One of many typical and illustrative anecdotes of this effect was provided by Roberto Hernandez. Roberto Hernandez was the owner of the second largest bank in Mexico. *After* he was exposed as a high level drug dealer, Mr. Hernandez was given a seat on the Board of Directors of Citicorp. Logically, it would seem to make more sense to prosecute those at the top levels of the illicit drug business rather than promoting them to prestigious boardrooms, especially whilst simultaneously filling our prisons with the victims of Mr. Hernandez's activities. It would indeed make sense if actually destroying the drug trade were the true purpose of the 'War on Drugs'. But it's not; quite the contrary. Profits from the illicit drug trade are so astronomical and they have proven to be so tempting that they have corrupted even those at the very highest and most respected echelons of international finance and government. Chase, the Bank of America, the aforementioned Citicorp, members of the Reagan administration, members of the Bush family — and the ubiquitous Goldman Sachs — have all participated in laundering drug money. It has been definitively proven that the CIA has been participating in large-scale drug trafficking for over forty years. Every



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Another big bonus for our hyperactive little gang of sociopaths is that the ‘War on Drugs’ has also become a very effective tool for their authoritarian lackeys in the government. They cried out in serious and dire tones: “The drug dealers are a threat to the country! Special laws are needed to deal with this dire threat. Yes, these laws are unconstitutional but we *promise* we will *only* use them on drug dealers! Cross our hearts!”

I suggest querying a Native American as to the worth of the word of the US government. Virtually every federal prosecution these days is for conspiracy because the bar is set so low.

Consider: Just after the election of 1988, 34% of Americans polled declared the budget deficit to be George H.W. Bush’s number one priority while 3% listed drugs. Almost immediately after assuming office Bush started barking about drugs and the media obediently began jumping up and down and barking in concert. After a massive media blitz in September of 1989, a new poll said that suddenly 43% of Americans now considered *drugs* to be the top priority, with the budget deficit running a distant second at 6%!

To quote Bush’s son and future president: “You can fool some of the people all the time — and those are the ones you want to concentrate on.” Nothing had changed except for our manipulated perceptions. As a result, government intrusion into our personal lives was greatly expanded. Bills approved by Congress widened the application of the death penalty, limited appeals by prisoners, and allowed the police much wider latitude in obtaining evidence. As a result, Mr. Bush was now free to ignore the budget deficit. As a result, all of the social costs of the ‘War on Drugs’ began to manifest. As a result, the heroes of this little tale of wonder experienced a virtual tsunami of money falling on their blessed little heads. Clinton was even worse.

Thus, from the perspective of authoritarian oppressors, the ‘War on Drugs’ has been a rousing success.

Has anyone noticed that the only people who actually benefit from the ‘War on Drugs’ are criminals and fascists?

Many think that decriminalizing and regulating drugs is the solution. After all, if drugs are such a dangerous product why wouldn’t the government want to control and regulate them



One of several gold weapons seized from a Mexican Drug lord’s home after being raided in June 2010.

rather than leaving that responsibility to criminals who are accountable to no one and whose only incentive is to sell as many drugs as possible? Decriminalizing drugs would instantly put every drug dealer in the country out of business. They would no longer prowl our schools trying to get our kids hooked

the legal and illegal worlds — between criminals and the large financial corporations that handle and launder the drug money. In May, when ABN Amro Bank (now largely part of the Royal Bank of Scotland) was caught funneling drug money for the benefit of Iran, Libya and Sudan in violation of UN sanctions

Thanks to the ‘War on Drugs’ it now costs pennies to produce a product that sells for hundreds of dollars. In actual production costs it is more expensive to produce a gram of salt than it is to produce a gram of cocaine.

on drugs as there would no longer be any financial incentive for them to do so. Decriminalizing drugs would free up tens of billions of dollars currently wasted in the futile and counterproductive efforts to catch and jail drug users. This money could then be used much more effectively in educating our youth about the dangers of drugs and on programs to help those already addicted. Decriminalizing drugs would deal a serious financial blow to organized crime and to numerous terrorist organizations. Decriminalizing drugs would increase government revenue through taxation rather than generating astronomical outlays trying to enforce unenforceable laws. Regulating drugs would greatly decrease deaths due to overdose and from bad cuts. Regulating drugs would significantly lower drug prices so that addicts would no longer be forced to commit crimes in order to support their habits. Decriminalization of drugs would free up hundreds of thousands of prosecutors, police, judges, jailers, probation/parole officers, and lawyers to find something useful to do with their lives.

So, what would be the negative effects of decriminalization? Experiences in countries that have tried it show that there would be a slight increase in the number of people who use drugs. Bummer. On the other hand all property and violent crime rates would plummet. Homicide rates nosedived over 70% the year after Prohibition was repealed.

Get it? This seems the definition of a ‘no-brainer’.

The second negative effect is much more serious, though: If drugs were decriminalized then what few tattered shreds of the world economy that are still viable would suffer much further damage, possibly fatal. Even besides the fact that about half of our monstrous criminal justice system would suddenly become superfluous there is the fact that even though *you* aren’t making anything on the ‘War on Drugs’ *they* certainly are, and if that cash cow suddenly stopped giving milk then you can bet they would be right back to take something else away from you because that is just what they do. They have intentionally arranged it so that you cannot just eliminate a \$1.5 trillion industry without serious economic consequences. Thus, American drug policy has completely and intentionally avoided the core of the problem, i.e. the economic ties between

it was fined \$500 million. This was pocket change to them. No one went to jail. Last December, Credit Suisse Group agreed to pay a \$536 million fine for doing the same. Again, no one went to jail. In recent years Union Bank of California, American Express Bank International, Bank Atlantic and Wachovia have all been caught moving huge sums of drug money. No one went to jail. A lot of people funded a lot of death with those drug dollars. A lot of bankers made a lot of money with those drug dollars. When caught, the banks just admitted to criminal conduct and paid the government a small cut from their profits. No one went to jail. It was a business expense and a relatively insignificant one at that. Meanwhile, people in California were receiving life-sentences for stealing pizzas.

As with nearly every aspect of the ‘War on Drugs’ these astronomical profits are a result of the war, not of the drugs. The corruption created by these profits has become so pervasive and systematic that the entire system seems incapable of correcting itself. It has reached a level where if even a significant minourity of corrupt politicians were prosecuted for their criminal activity the government would cease to function. The scope of the problem is so enormous and the level of public ignorance and/or apathy is so great that no realistic solution presents itself — especially since the officials charged with prosecuting the corruptions are themselves among the most corrupt.

If you think the economy is more important than people then continue the ‘War on Drugs’. If you think the other way around it needs to stop. The problem is that I can see no practical way to successfully battle the ultra-powerful people who maintain and profit from the ‘War on Drugs’. That is someone else’s job. I just wish you would do it. I am throwing this out into the ether to define and illustrate the problems in case someone else can see a solution to any of this. I have a daughter. I have a granddaughter. I care about the future. If anyone can fix this please do. I truly wish you the best of luck from the very deepest recesses of my very inner soul. Believe me. Good luck.

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Undocumented immigrant’s death not worth less

Houston: A garbage disposal company argued against a wrongful death judgment on the grounds that the employee would have been deported in a raid on the company two weeks after his death.

Undocumented immigrant Oscar Alfredo Gomez, an employee of Republic Waste Services, was run over by one of its garbage truck four years ago. After losing a \$1.4 million lawsuit, the company appealed claiming Gomez would have been deported and therefore the amount of the judgment should be determined by Gomez’s projected income in El Salvador and not the US. (\$1,000 per year rather than \$33,000).

According to the UPI, “an appellate court rejected that argument ruling the trial court was right to exclude evidence about Gomez’s immigration status.”

Source: UPI

US House passes bill that reduces federal education programs

February 20, the House of Representatives passed the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (H.R. 1) by a vote of 235-189. Included in this bill are massive cuts in many education programs proven to be effective in educating minority youth while sending billions of dollars to predatory for-profit colleges that consistently leave students of color, and low-income students, buried in debt and with worthless degrees.

Federal programs effected are:

TRIO, a federal academic assistance and support services for promising youth, and adult learners who have been historically underrepresented in higher education due to economic deprivation, poor academic preparation or first generation college status, by \$24.9 million. GEAR UP, which provides six-year grants to states and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools, by 6.1%

Community services block grants by 45.7%.

Pell Grant award by \$845 million and eliminates an additional \$56 billion in mandatory Pell funding over the next 10 years

Sources: Department of Education; League of United Latin American Citizens; Council for Opportunity in Education

Amazon Indians in Europe to stop dams that will destroy them

Suvival Int’l: Three Amazon Indians journeyed through Europe to protest against dams which threaten to destroy the lands and lives of thousands of tribal people.

Ruth Buendia Mestoquiari, an Ashaninka Indian from Peru, Sheyla Juruna, a Juruna Indian from the Xingu region and Almir Surui of the Surui tribe in Brazil, are calling for three controversial dam projects in the Amazon to be halted.

Several European companies are involved in building the dams, including GDF Suez, Alstom of France, Voith of Germany and Andritz of Austria.

The Pakitzapango dam project in Peru threatens to flood a vast area of the Ene River Valley, home to thousands of Ashaninka Indians who will lose their lands and livelihoods.

The Madeira dams in Brazil could attract large scale immigration to and deforestation of the area, where several tribes, including groups of uncontacted Indians, live and depend on the forest for their survival. Any contact between the uncontacted Indians and outsiders could prove fatal for the Indians.

The Belo Monte mega-dam planned for Brazil’s Xingu river would be the world’s third largest dam. If constructed it will devastate a huge area of forest and reduce fish stocks on which indigenous peoples depend. There are reports of uncontacted Indians near the dam site.

Victory for Kalahari Bushmen as court grants right to water

Survival Insternational: In a momentous decision, Botswana’s Court of Appeal today quashed a ruling that denied the Kalahari Bushmen access to water on their ancestral lands.

With support from Survival, the Bushmen appealed a 2010 High Court judgment that prevented them from accessing a well which they rely on for water. The panel of five Appeal Court judges has found that:

- the Bushmen have the right to use their old borehole, which the government had banned them from using
- the Bushmen have the right to sink new boreholes
- the government’s conduct towards the Bushmen amounted to ‘degrading treatment’.
- the government must pay the Bushmen’s costs in bringing the appeal.

Celebrating after the decision, a Bushman spokesman said, “We are very happy that our rights have finally been recognized. We have been waiting a long time for this. Like any human beings, we need water to live. We also need our land. We pray that the government will now treat us with the respect we deserve.”

WIP HISTORY

Every month, WIP reprints a relevant article from its 20 year history, or a new article on a historical topic. This month, we're reprinting this article at the request of a reader. Is there an old article you'd like us to reprint? Email us atolywip@gmail.com!

Domestic Partnership: A First Step Toward Marriage Equality

by Janet Blanding
March 2007

Domestic partnership looks almost certain to become a reality for same-sex couples in Washington state in the near future. House Bill 1351 and Senate Bill 5336 are both out of committee and have so many co-sponsors that only a few more votes will be needed for the bills to pass. When passed and implemented, a state domestic partnership registry will be created, which will provide registered couples with enhanced rights. Both same-sex couples, and couples where at least one partner is over 62, will be eligible to register as domestic partnerships. While a state-registered domestic partnership does not offer anywhere near the same benefits as a civil union or marriage, it's a step in the right direction.

The rights granted by registered domestic partnership mostly pertain to medical and end-of-life situations, including: health care, facility visitation rights, the ability to grant informed consent for a patient who is not competent, the right to have health care information disclosed to a partner on the patient's behalf, certain title and rights to cemetery plots and rights of internment, ability to authorize autopsies, the right to control disposition of the remains of a deceased person, certain inheritance rights, and administration of estate if the partner dies without a will. Domestic partnership registration also enables the domestic partner of a public employee the right to receive benefits coverage in some circumstances.

At the committee hearing for Senate Bill 5336, the prime sponsor Senator Ed Murray testified with his partner, Michael Shiosaki by his side. "Michael and I wished that after 15 years together, that we were here this afternoon to ask you to allow us to marry," he said, "but until that discussion of marriage occurs in the not too distant future, we, like thousands of lesbian and gay families across the state, need protection now."

Testifier Charlene Strong provided moving testimony about the consequences of not having that protection. During the recent storms of December, 2006, Strong's wife, Katherine Fleming, drowned when the basement of their Seattle home flooded. After nearly losing her own life in an attempt to save her partner of ten years, Strong followed the ambulance carrying Fleming to Harborview Medical Center. Once there Strong recounted that since she was not a legally recognized spouse, "I was denied access to Katherine, to be by her side as she lay dying. As the minutes ticked by, I kept wondering, what if she dies without me holding her hand? What if she dies without me telling her I loved her?" Only after a family member could be located in Alex-

andria, Virginia, to give consent allowing Strong into the hospital room, was Strong able to sit by her partner's hospital bed. "I was able to tell Kate how beautiful she was, and how dearly I loved her, as she lay dying," Strong said.

Later, Strong encountered obstacles when she attempted to fulfill Fleming's wishes regarding organ donation, and at the funeral home where she went to make burial arrangements. "When I got there, the funeral director did not even shake my hand. He did not offer me any condolences. He

"I was denied access to Katherine, to be by her side as she lay dying. As the minutes ticked by, I kept wondering, what if she dies without me holding her hand?"

looked directly at Mrs. Fleming, Kate's mother, and directed all of his questions to her. When I asked him to direct his questions to me, as I would be making all the funeral arrangements, he would not even look at me. He slid the cremation request over to Mrs. Fleming. At that point I left the room, and someone else took over making the arrangements."

While the domestic partnership registry will prevent such situations as the ones Strong encountered, there is much it will not do for same-sex couples. Marriage automatically confers over 1000 federal rights and 300 state rights, the majority of which will not be granted by domestic partnership. These rights include tax breaks, survivor and pension benefits, the right to bring a wrongful death suit, spousal privilege that makes it a duty not to testify against the spouse in legal matters, and many others. In addition, marriage has an emotional meaning that goes beyond rights conferred, which should not be denied to committed life partners simply because they are of the same sex.

Local gay activist Jeff Kingsbury says of the domestic partnership legislation that "it's certainly better than nothing." However, it's less than he's looking for. "I want marriage for every citizen who wants it, with whomever they love. Fundamentally and civilly it is inappropriate for the state to decide who that can be." Kingsbury and his partner were among the 19 couples who were litigants in a lawsuit against the state of Washington, challenging the 1998 Defense of Marriage Act. This summer, the Washington state Supreme Court split 5-4, narrowly upholding the state law banning same-sex marriage.

Other equal rights advocates share Kingsbury's feelings about domestic partnership. Equal Rights Washington states its position

that "while domestic partnerships neither meet the basic legal needs of same-sex couples nor provide the dignity and intangible protections that marriage affords, they do provide some level of protection presently unavailable to same-sex couples and their children," and encourages the immediate creation of the domestic partnership registry.

True equality for same-sex couples will take more than the ability to register as domestic partnerships; many gay rights advocates feel that given the current make-up of the legislature, the time is right to ask for more. "I am certainly grateful that we have a legislature today that has the will to

provide at least these protections to those who are in committed relationships," said Kingsbury. "However, I remain concerned that by not pushing at a time that we have the political will to do it, that we are going to close the door."

Opponents of gay rights, however, are afraid of that door being opened. A number of people testified in opposition to the House and Senate bills.

Several suddenly developed an interest in preventing discrimination -- against people other than same-sex couples. For instance, Bishop Joseph Tyson of the Washington State Catholic Conference testified that the Senate bill "unjustly discriminates against a wide swath of peoples in our state. This bill grants to domestic partners a package set of rights it fails to grant to the many other kinds of relationships that exist beyond the state's legal definition of marriage... A great variety of bonded relationships and various households exist outside of civil marriage, especially in our immigrant communities." Kingsbury characterized these remarks as "a disingenuous tool to try to undermine the intent of the bill."

At the hearing for House Bill 1351, Father Thomas Nathe presented Bishop Tyson's testimony. Representative Jamie Pedersen of Seattle, who is openly gay, followed up by remarking that he was delighted to see the groundswell of support for people not protected by legal marriage, and asked Father Nathe in what other ways the Catholic Conference was advocating for families outside the protection of marriage. Father Nathe had no answer.

Other opponents were more direct in their opposition to equal rights for gay and lesbian couples. Bob Higley, senior lobbyist for Positive Christian Agenda, testified at both the House and Senate hearings. Openly hostile to gay rights, even the relatively minor ones conferred by domestic partnership, he testified "the agenda of the homosexual agenda has advanced so homosexuality is taught as normal in our schools... If you pass this bill, what is the next item to be considered to advance their agenda?" The official position of Positive Christian Agenda on domestic partnership legislation, as published on their [now defunct] website (<http://www.positivechristianagenda.org/>) states that "we see this as a critical bill for the eventual imposition of gay marriage upon an unwilling public."

Representative Brendan Williams (District 22), who is a co-sponsor of House Bill 1351, made the connection between Bob Higley, who has advocated strongly against domestic partnership, as well as other measures to ensure equal rights for glbtq (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and queer) people, and the Stormans family, who own Ralph's Thriftway and Bayview Thriftway supermarkets.

Indeed, it appears possible that opponents of domestic partnership may be using the resources of the Stormans family in their efforts to defeat domestic partnership. Daniel's House of Prayer, which does not have a city permit to run a house of worship or a home occupation, is apparently being used as a staging ground for people who testify

in opposition of the domestic partnership legislation. Two women who signed in as opponents at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing were observed walking directly from the hearing to Daniel's House of Prayer. After the House Committee hearing, Bob Higley was overheard inviting a group of people who testified in opposition to the legislation to come up to "the prayer house." Ken Stormans, who is President of Stormans, Inc., is Chairman of the Board of Daniel's House of Prayer. It is not clear how the "prayer house," a large, expensively decorated house with well-maintained grounds in an area where real estate values are high, is funded.

Despite opposition from the organized, well-financed opponents of gay rights, it is almost certain that the domestic partnership bill will pass and its limited collection of rights will soon become available to same-sex couples. Jeff Kingsbury points out that passage of "the equal rights bill did not create the catastrophe in the workforce that they suggested over and over in testimony that they said it would." He and other advocates of gay rights hope that once conservative lawmakers see that granting rights to same-sex couples causes no disasters, that heterosexual marriages do not crumble, and the sky doesn't fall, it will pave the way to greater equality, chiefly in the form of the right to form civil unions and marriages. 🔥

US House votes to eliminate funding to Planned Parenthood

ACLU -- The House of Representatives adopted an extreme amendment that would eliminate all federal funding to Planned Parenthood Federation of America. This would immediately jeopardize the health of millions of women, men and teens who rely on Planned Parenthood and are otherwise unable to afford basic healthcare services.

The Pence amendment is an attempt to prevent Planned Parenthood from receiving any federal funding because it performs abortions. Further, it raises serious constitutional questions because it penalizes an organization for using its own funds to provide constitutionally protected access to abortion.

In some states, Planned Parenthood is the only provider serving low-income women. With federal funds, Planned Parenthood provides women with a range of services that include detecting breast and cervical cancers, preventing unintended pregnancies, treating and preventing sexually transmitted infections, testing for high blood pressure, and counseling about their options including adoption and pregnancy terminations.

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► **PALESTINE**, continued from page 6

planning to refuse to drive the buses with the ads, and that others were voicing concern for their personal safety while driving the buses. Bachtel, in his written testimony on behalf of King County, wrote:

“I have received numerous phone calls and e-mails asking questions such as, ‘Does the ATU intend to join in the Jihad against Israel?’ These type of questions lead me to believe members of our community are capable and desirous of committing acts of violence in response to the proposed advertising.”

However, a group of union members called “Shop Floor 587” later composed a group rebuttal to Bachtel, which read in part:

“The membership was never consulted about [Bachtel’s] letter and it does not speak for us. Censoring the ad is a violation of First Amendment free speech rights. It is also hypocritical for County Exec Dow Constantine to order its removal when Metro regularly displays ads for radio stations or personalities, such as Rush Limbaugh, who espouse hate and bigotry toward racial, sexual, religious, and ethnic minorities. The ad’s sponsor, the Middle East Awareness Committee, expresses valid criticism of U.S. foreign policy, and concern for Palestinians who bear the brunt.... To suggest the ad will make Metro a target of Jihad is far-fetched. It also plays into the hands of officials who are cynically using the ‘war on terrorism’ to weaken civil liberties.”

Goodbye bad cop, hello good cop

US vetoes resolution brought to UN by the Palestinian Authority

The US stood alone in vetoing A UN Security Council draft resolution that would have condemned Israeli settlements. The resolution had the support of the other 14 nations and over 100 co-sponsors.

“The U.S. opposes new Israeli settlements but says taking the issue to the UN will only complicate efforts to resume stalled negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on a two-state solution.”

Israel claims the resolution is a stunt to avoid negotiations and “is a precondition never demanded before during 17 years of negotiation.”

There are currently 121 Israeli settlements which “are illegal under international law and have been condemned by numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions. Though Settlements are built on less than 3 percent of the West Bank, with networks of settler roads and restrictions on Palestinians accessing their own land, Israeli settlements dominate more than 40 percent of the West Bank.”

Sources: *Ha’aretz*, *Palestine Monitor*

In the midst of the belligerent response, the King County Executive’s office was paid a visit from representatives from three Zionist lobby organizations. Dow Constantine described the meeting as follows:

“On December 22, 2010, representatives from my Leadership Team met with representatives from the American Jewish Committee of Seattle, the Jewish Federation of Seattle and the Anti-Defamation League. My Leadership Team reported to me that

Dow Constantine was put in the position of either having to accept both the counter-ads (when one, if not both, would have been denied under normal circumstances as genuine hate speech), or intensify the abuse against him and employees under his supervision.

it was apparent from the meeting that the advertisements would be perceived as insulting, degrading or offensive by many members of the local Jewish community, although at that meeting no one requested that the SeaMAC ad be pulled. In particular, there were points of sensitivity regarding the assertion in the SeaMAC ad that Israel had committed war crimes, in light of the Holocaust and war crimes committed against the Jewish population of Europe during the Second World War. In addition, it was reported to me that several of the representatives from the Jewish community mentioned the 2006 shooting at the Jewish Federation of Seattle, where a gunman with professed anti-Israeli sentiments targeted un-armed Jewish-American employees working at the Federation’s offices in downtown Seattle. As a result of the information that was reported to me, I was concerned about how the SeaMAC ad would be perceived by members of the Jewish community and also how the Counter-Ads would be perceived by members of the Palestinian and Muslim communities, especially since both would be displayed on government-owned buses.”

While it was framed as a meeting with representatives of the Jewish people, and while the ad is framed as being of interest strictly to Jews (as discussion of Israeli state criminality is often framed as a dialogue internal to the Jewish community), in truth, this was a meeting with political advocacy groups which *disagreed* with the message the ad presented, politically. The key problem here is that, according to Constantine’s testimony, these were the *only* political groups his staff conferred with for advice on how to proceed.

First, Dow Constantine should have informed himself enough to know that defense of Israel is not universal to Jewish people. There are many Jews, and Jewish organizations, who actively op-

pose Israeli state policy and support Palestinian sovereignty. Knowing that, and recognizing that his staff met with political advocacy groups, Constantine should have sought out Jewish peace groups – Jews who agreed with the ads *politically* – for a balanced perspective. If Jews on both sides of the political divide were in agreement that the ads were insensitive and/or could lead to violence against Jews, then the ads could be confidently pulled. But if both sides disagree, then it’s simply an issue of politics, with one side trying to unduly pressure the government to silence speech they disagree with.

Noah Sochet is a Jewish organizer for Olympia BDS, the organization which successfully lobbied the Olympia Food Co-op to boycott Israeli products last year. About the “Israeli war crimes” ad, Sochet had this to say:

“The planned bus ads in Seattle are a contribution to an important conversation that is so often silenced. Palestinians live without sovereignty or freedom, unable to farm their land or fish their seas, constantly facing a violent military occupation that makes the fear of an accurate ad on the side of a city bus seem completely absurd.

“Further, as a Jew who has been targeted with death threats for speaking out against occupation, I know that a much more pressing danger for local Jewish folks is the repression that we face when we assert a Jewish identity separate from the Jewish state.”

Even more disappointing is that the local Arab and Muslim communities were never consulted, yet their positions on the advertisements were *assumed to be a foregone conclusion*. Not surprisingly, the assumption made by Constantine was that local Arabs and/or local Muslims would support whatever it was Constantine and the city was, at this point, looking to do – drop *all* the advertisements. Adding to the blunder is the fact that he would not have had to look very far to find an appropriate organization to solicit input from; the Arab-American Community Coalition had already bought Metro ads supporting Palestine twice before.

While inviting other groups into the discussion would have been the appropriate thing to do, in order to make an informed decision on a matter of import to the entire community, for the city, it would have only served to preclude their attempt to justify what they were about to do next. Worse yet, had Constantine met with the local Muslim community, he could have *potentially* received the answer he most feared – that the “Israeli war crimes” ad was appropriate (which it was), and that it was the *counter-ads* which were offensive and had to go...

This article is concluded at www.olywip.org. ☘



Massachusetts: Students at Hampshire College in Amherst shut down a speech given by an Israeli soldier on 3 February -- “a loud and creative disruption” that forced the soldier to end his talk early.

The college’s Students for Justice in Palestine stated the current campaign by “Zionist campus organizations and Israeli [public relations] groups to send [Israeli] soldiers to institutions of higher learning in the U.S. and Canada to talk of their ‘experiences as victims of terrorism’ ignores and maligns the experiences of Palestinians under occupation.”

The campaign “has been met with massive resistance, by well-coordinated silent walkouts and protests at the U of Michigan, at Arizona State, U of Massachusetts Amherst, U of Western Ontario, and at Hampshire College.”

New York: Following the death of Jawaher Abu Rahmah in Bilin in January, activists in NY and PA waged protests against Combined Systems, Inc., the company that provides lethal tear gas to the Israeli military.

The tear gas was also used against unarmed demonstrators by Tunisian forces, as well as by Egyptian police during the first week of the uprising there.

The New York Campaign for the Boycott of Israel said the CSI plant in Jamestown started flying the Israeli flag alongside the American flag.

Los Angeles: A Jewish Voice for Peace activist, who had been in the media as part of a national effort to get the retirement fund giant TIAA-CREF to divest from companies that profit from the Israeli occupation,” was targeted on 2 February by unknown individuals who placed a “wanted” poster on her front porch. JVP’s LA chapter leader Estee Chandler discovered the poster that featured her photograph, workplace and names of her nieces and nephew.

The poster stated she was “wanted for treason and incitement against Jews.”

Scotland: University students in Edinburgh successfully shut down a lecture by Ishmael Khaldi, advisor to ultra-nationalist Israeli foreign minister and settler Avigdor Lieberman, February 2.

“The protesters -- approximately 50 people -- were the majority of the audience and compromised of students activists, members of the Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign and members of the local Palestinian community.”

Liam O’Hare of the SJP chapter, stated: “We sent a clear message today that those who come to our university to represent an apartheid state and defend the dropping of white phosphorous on children are absolutely not welcome. Khaldi works for the openly racist Avidgor Lieberman, a man who has called for the execution of Arab Knesset members.”

Turkey: A Turkish investigation into Israel’s 31 May 2010 lethal attack on the humanitarian aid ship, Mavi Marmara, concluded “at least two activists were killed before commandos boarded the ship and another died ‘execution-style’ as he lay injured,” according to the AP.

Turkish foreign ministry official Mithat Rende told AP that “Israel violated laws regarding the safety of navigation in open waters and the freedom to navigate,” and that Israel is responsible for the compensation of all damages.

The report said no civilians on board were armed, and Israeli forces continued to fire even after the activists waved white flags.

Israel: The Constitution, Law and Justice committee in the Israeli Knesset approved a bill that would wage heavy fines against its citizens “who initiate or incite boycotts against Israel,” according to Haaretz.

If approved, Israeli companies could sue individuals involved in boycott initiatives for damages of up to NIS 30,000 (US \$8,300) without having to prove that damage was indeed caused.”

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WIP Announcements

Send in announcements to
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Works In Progress
PO Box 295 Olympia WA 98507

Regularly held events

PFLAG Olympia
2nd Sunday, 2:00 PM
First United Methodist Church
1224 Legion Way SE in Olympia

Sunday, March 13, 2-4:30 pm
Capital City Pride Honors PFLAG Anna Schlecht and possibly other representatives of Capital City Pride will be on hand to honor the work done by PFLAG-Olympia.

Drunken Poetry
Last Word Books
211 East 4th Olympia
1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:30-9:30pm

Readings operate on a first-come first-serve sign-up basis. Details/requirements are complicated so check out the Last Word Books website for more information. <http://www.lastwordbooks.org>

Drinking Liberally
1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, 7 pm
Bally Hoo Irish Pub & Restaurant
316 Schmidt Place, Tumwater

Local chapter of loosely structured national organization dedicated to discussion of liberal and progressive politics.

Volunteers Needed to Sort and Box Medical Supplies
Providence Health Int'l / CHUMA,
2601 Willamette Drive NE, Suite G, Lacey

No experience is necessary. Volunteers must be at least 14. CHUMA Int'l (Catholic Health United for Medical Assistance) practices global solidarity and environmental stewardship by ensuring useful medical supplies and equipment are shared with charitable health-care organizations in economically developing countries.

Supplies are sent to Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Cuba, Brazil, Uganda/other countries. Help CHUMA's volunteer efforts. Ray Reyes 493-5641 raymond.reyes@providence.org

F.O.R. TV Program
Mondays at 1:30 pm
Thursdays at 9:00pm
Channel 22

February program: http://www.olympiafor.org/tv_programs.htm

If you live outside of Thurston County or if you don't have cable TV, you can watch 60+ of Fellowship Of Reconciliation's recent TV programs on your computer! Visit www.olympiafor.org then click the link for TV Programs and click any program you want to watch.

Memoir Writing Group
Tuesdays, 1-3 PM
State Capitol Museum,
211 21st Ave SW, Olympia,
360-753-2580

The Memoir Writing Group at the State Capital Museum has been meeting regularly for nearly two years. The group explores the past through writing and assembling their memoirs. Lead by Delores Kelso Nelson, a writer and teacher in the Olympia area for over 15 years, the memoir class serves participants by igniting lost memories, supporting practicing memoir writers, and offering a chance to socialize. cost is \$6 per class or 5 classes for \$24

Peace Vigil
NW corner of Sylvester Park
Wednesdays 12 pm: Legion & Capitol

Please come for all or part of the hour to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1980. 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

The Other Bank
Wednesdays 1:00-3:30pm
YWCA, 220 Union Ave SE, Olympia

The YWCA Other Bank provides free hygiene and cleaning supplies to families in need --

items not be purchased with food stamps and not available at food banks, yet are essential for maintaining health and personal dignity. Items include: toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, soap, tampons and pads, cleaning products, etc. 360-352-0593

PLEASE DONATE! Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

Stonewall Youth Support Groups
Wednesdays -- 705-2738
4:30-6:30pm for 21 and under group
7-9pm for 18+ group.

Stonewall Youth is an organization of youth, activists, and allies that empowers lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQQIA) youth to speak for themselves, educate their communities, and support each other. Stonewall Youth envisions a community in which all queer, gender variant, and gender non-conforming youth have a full spectrum of choices regarding their bodies, self-expression, and legal rights. www.stonewallyouth.org info@stonewallyouth.org

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP)
Monthly Meetings
2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7 pm

Work on a variety of global and local issues. Larry 866-2404 Imosque-da@comcast.net

Veterans for Peace, locally produced
Wednesdays, 5 pm
Fridays, 9 - 10 pm
Thurston County TV (TCTV)

Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 mills.dennis@comcast.net

"Parallel University"
Thursdays, 12 - 1 pm:
89.3 FM or kaos.evergreen.edu/

Informative programs about peace, social justice, the environment, progressive politics, and other alternative viewpoints. parralleluniversity@yahoo.com

Women in Black
Every Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm:
W. 4th Avenue, near the fountain

Women only. Please wear black. Some signs are provided. Women in Black is a loose network of women worldwide committed to peace with justice. Info: Karin 754-5352 kraftkf@comcast.net

Percival Landing Peace Vigil
Fridays, 4:30-6pm
4th Avenue and Water Street, Olympia

All welcome to come to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. The Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1998. 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

Bread and Roses
Saturdays, 1-5 PM
1320 8th Ave SE, Olympia

We're building a food garden! By summertime, every square foot of land at the Bread & Roses community will be growing fruits, nuts, herbs, and vegetables for our community meals and for local soup kitchens and food banks. If you have a pickup truck, have yard tools to loan, are passionate about organic gardening or local food security, or if you just like doing fun projects with your neighbors, please come join us! There are many ways to be involved (painting, repairs, canning, preparing Saturday Supper, etc). Followed by Saturday Supper at 6:00pm. Saturday Supper Bread & Roses' volunteer hosts serve a gourmet meal Saturday evenings. <http://www.breadandrosesolympia.org> 754-4085

Community Special Events

The Story of Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission: Why Democracy Only Works When People are in Charge
Wednesday, March s, 7:00 pm
Traditions Cafe
300 5th Ave SW

This movie examines the disproportionate influence that corporations exercise in the American political system and was inspired by the disastrous 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision that permitted corporations to spend freely to influence American elections.

The Supreme Court case of Citizen's United v Federal Elections Commission was a landmark decision holding that corporate funding of independent political broadcasts in candidate elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment. Decided by a 5-4 split, this decision wiped away decades-old campaign finance reform measures put in place to limit the power of large amounts of money in elections.

Sponsored by Move To Amend - Olympia Washington Public Campaigns. For more information call: 360-943-3070.

BRICK presents David Oaks of MindFreedom International
Friday, March 4, 7:00 pm

For too long people with mental illness labels have suffered human rights violations. With virutally no due process anyone can find themselves held indefinitely in psychiatric institutions and subjected to ECT or drug therapies against their wills. Often patients are simply gay or politically active. David Oaks, founder of MindFreedom International, has been working since 1976 to protect the rights of psychiatric patients around the world. His story explains how a small group of activists with little money survived against pharmaceutical corporations, and gives vision for a better future. For more information contact BRICK at www.spsccbrick.org.

Anastacia Tolbert
Saturday, March 5, 8 pm
Last Word Books
211 4th Avenue East

Anastacia Tolbert is a multifarious mix of grit, sunshine, alphabet juice & butter-

flies. She is a writer, performance artist, documentarian, teacher and workshop facilitator. <http://www.anastaciatolbert.com/> <http://anastaciatolbert.blogspot.com/2010/10/ahimsa.html>

Stories of Children and Peace
In collaboration with Peace Scouts International
Playback Theatre Performance
Friday, March 11, 7:30 pm
Traditions Cafe
300 5th Ave. SW, Olympia

Each month we invite a guest artist, community organization, arts program or social service agency to be a part of our performance. Through this collaboration we acknowledge and honor the work individuals and organizations do in our community.

This month we will be collaborating with Peace Scouts International. The vision of Peace Scouts International is to serve as a catalyst for creating a positive global future by empowering children to build a peaceful society. Children experience peace as a powerful action that emphasizes compassion, empathy, creativity, leadership, joyful collaboration and service to others.

The Heartsparkle Players' Playback Theatre is a spontaneous collaboration between performers and audience. People tell moments from their lives, then watch them re-created with movement, music and dialogue.

Cost: Suggested donation \$5.00-\$10.00 (No one is turned away)

Bridges Not Walls Olympia meeting
Sunday, March 13, 4pm
MIXX 96 building, State and Washington

Bridges Not Walls, from the South Sound region of Washington State, addresses issues of immigration in our community. We believe immigrants, regardless of legal status, deserve to be treated with dignity. We seek to make our communities a place where the contributions of immigrants are valued and respected. We oppose the fear and intimidation created by immigration enforcement in our region. Therefore, we work in solidarity with the immigrant communities in our area to promote human rights, economic rights and civil rights for all people. Call 943-8642 for more information.

Events at Orca Books

Friday, March 4, 6:00pm

Sara Wiseman
"Your Psychic Child"

Saturday, March 12, 6:00pm

Joshua James Amberson & Alexis Wolf
"zine battle: Prince vs Mary Wollstonecraft"

Sunday, March 13, 2:30pm

Orcapod Book Group
Orca Books' book group, Orcapod, meets the 2nd Sunday of every month (except for Nov/Dec).

Tuesday, March 22, 6:00pm

Jen Marlowe
"The Hour of Sunlight: One Palestinian's Journey from Prisoner to Peacemaker"

Thursday, March 24, 6:00pm

Tami Dahlgren
"The Garden"

Sunday, March 27, 2:30pm

Orca Writes! Orca Books' Writing Group

Thursday, March 31, 6:00pm

Cara Lopez Lee
"They Only Eat Their Husbands"

509 East 4th Avenue in downtown Olympia

Pacific Northwest Medicine Wheel Ceremony Benefit
Sunday, March 13th, 1:00-4:00pm
\$5-30 sliding scale
Hear timely messages in support of Blue Thunder and Kristine Soliday’s work on the Pacific Northwest Medicine Wheel. Through their incredible story they have been called to create a sacred medicine wheel ceremony centered in Olympia on March 19-21st. They carry a vision to heal our bodies, the water, and the Earth through the sacred songs and prayers of all people. Featuring speakers and film, this fund-raising event is a convergence of great minds seeking environmental healing through sound and consciousness. More info about this ceremony and other events to follow: www.earthwisdomfoundation.net

The Pacific Northwest Medicine Wheel Ceremony
March 19-21; the Spring Equinox
The Pacific Northwest Medicine Wheel Ceremony is a vision carried by Blue Thunder, a member of the Eastern Shoshone tribe, & Kristine Soliday, an intuitive healer and wisdom keeper from Olympia. Through their incredible story they have been called to create a medicine wheel ceremony on the Spring Equinox centered in Olympia with eight sacred sites around the circumference. They are reaching out to those resonating with love, peace, and harmony to join them for the three day ceremony. There will be people on each of the nine points creating sacred tones to re-harmonize the web of life. Our consciousness and resonating vibrations will create healing in our bodies, the water, and the earth. We are calling for people of all nations to come forward with their sacred ceremonies, songs & dances. Please join us in creating the Pacific Northwest Medicine Wheel. See more at www.earthwisdomfoundation.net

Vigil at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma
March 19, 11am
Bridges Not Walls invites your participation in a vigil at the Northwest Detention Center, which was built on a superfund toxic waste site near downtown Tacoma. Carpool to leave Olympia at 11am from the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural at Capitol and State, and will return to Oly by around 5pm.
The NWDC houses up to 1500 detainees and is run by GEO Group, a for-profit corporation that consumes \$150,000 of taxpayers’ taxes each night that it’s full. Prisons and detention centers are a bizarre growth industry in the US! Bring coffee and food to support families that are visiting their locked-up loved ones; come and also protest a failed immigration policy.
Email bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net or call (503) 970-3399 by Friday for more information on what to bring (and what not to bring).

Local Green Party potluck/meeting
Saturday, March 19 , 6 pm
MIXX 96 building, State and Washington
Brin a dish or box o’ kibbles to share and come get active in the local antics of a worthwhile political party!
Bridges Not Walls Shelton meeting
Sunday, March 27, 4 pm
943-8642 for more information
Bridges Not Walls to meet at 4pm in downtown Shelton at the Mason County Literacy office. The carpool from Olympia will leave promptly at 3:15pm from the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural (State and Capitol). 360-943-8642 for more information.

Traditions Cafe & World Folk Art Events

300 5th Avenue SW, Olympia

Steve Smith & Chris Sanders
Thursday, March 3, 8:00 PM
This vocal duo features strong original tunes/outstanding instrumentation. Tickets: \$12 Student/low income: \$8

FOR Benefit with Tom Rawson
Friday, March 4, 7:30 PM
Olympia Chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation presents their annual benefit show with noted peace activist and singer Tom Rawson. Tom will get you singing and laughing and, as in his words, he has a banjo and he is not afraid to use it. Admission is self-determined, \$10-\$25.

John Stowell & Paul Meyers
Saturday, March 5, 8:00 PM
Two outstanding jazz guitarists grace our stage. John Stowell is well-known for his work and tonight he will be joined by New York guitarist Paul Meyers. They will perform solo as well as a duo for a jazz show that you will not want to miss. Tickets: \$12 Student/low income: \$8

Oly Songwriter Circle
Tuesday, March 1 -- 7:00 PM
Student/low income

Citizens United Decision versus Federal Elections Commission
Wednesday, March 2 -- 7:00 PM

Steve Smith & Chris Sanders
Thursday, March 3 -- 8:00 PM
Their award winning songwriting has landed them both best gospel and instrumental at the New Mexico Music awards in 2006 and best bluegrass and gospel in 2008. They do leave home and quite regularly tour the country. Come hear them in a first time stop at Traditions. Tickets: \$12 Student/low income: \$8

FOR Benefit with Tom Rawson
Friday, March 4 -- 7:30 PM
The Olympia Chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation presents their annual benefit show with noted peace activist and singer Tom Rawson. He has charmed and invigorated audiences throughout the Pacific Northwest with his infectious wit, energy and songs that you just can’t resist singing along with. Admission is at a self-determined price of between \$10 and \$25.

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Jazz Jam
Sunday, March 6 -- 2:30
The jazz community of South Sound will hold a jam in our cafe on the 1st Sunday of the month. Free to all.

NOW Meeting
Tuesday, March 8 -- 7:00 PM
Free.

S. Sound Clean Clothes Campaign
Tuesday, March 8 -- 7:00 PM
This community group formed in 2000 to address sweatshop issues, and has focused on getting public institutions to adopt sweatshop-free purchasing practices. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month. For more info, go to www.southsoundcleanclothes.org. Free.

Earth Care
Wednesday, March 9 -- 7:00 PM
Video and discussion. Tonight’s film is “Hidden Dangers in Kid’s Meals: Genetically Engineered Films.” Free

Drama Therapy in the Middle East
Thursday, March 10 -- 7:00 PM
Can Drama Therapy play a role in creating a peaceful Middle East? Invitation to an evening of stories, slides, poetry and participation in creative healing against all odds. www.evanhastings.com. Free.

The Makedonians
Saturday, March 12 -- 8:00 PM
With sonorous harmonies, rhythms that kick and songs of love, tragedy,

loyalty and drink -- this wide collection of Northwest musicians has been entertaining audiences with festive village dance music and historic songs of the Mediterranean and the Balkans for almost 30 years. The ensemble resembles a chalgia orchestra, typically comprised of eight or more (sometimes many more) musicians playing a combination of wind, string, and percussive instruments. Tickets: \$12 Student/low income: \$8

Music by the Straw Hat String Band
Sunday, March 13 -- 2:00 PM
On the 2nd Sunday of each month we’ll have some free acoustic music in the cafe. The Straw Hat String Band is a fervent acoustic traditional band that does interpretations of many folk genres - Contradance, Irish, Old Timey, Québécois, Métis, American Roots, Blues, Rock, Jazz, and Latin. Free.

Jung Society
Sunday, March 13 -- 7:00 PM

Open Shape Note singing
Sunday, March 13 -- 5:00 PM
Open to all who would like to sing in the shape note traditions. Free.

Call to Action
Monday, March 14 -- 7:00 PM
Free.

Poetry night
Wednesday, March 16 --6:30 PM
Featured poet and open mic. Sponsored by the Olympia Poetry Network. Free.

Plants and Planets
Thursday, March 17 -- 6:30 PM
This monthly presentation has a \$10 requested donation.

Pearl Django
Friday, March 18 & 19 -- 8:00 PM
This Northwest quartet has been entertaining audiences and critics for a number of years with swing, gypsy jazz, and variety of other forms of acoustic music. They travel internationally packing crowds into dance halls, nightclubs, and before festival audiences. Tickets: \$15 Student/low income: \$10

Bluegrass and Acoustic Music Jam
Sunday, March 20 -- 2:00 PM
3rd Sunday monthly jam of bluegrass and acoustic musicians. Free.

Uke and Singalong
Monday, March 21 -- 7:00 PM
Veteran folk musicians and uke enthusiasts and teachers, Steve Einhorn and Kate Power, bring a community event to Traditions. Free.

Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Memorial Event
Friday, March 25 -- 7:00 PM
Centennial of infamous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, which killed 146 workers, mostly young immigrant women, and galvanized a social justice movement to protect workers’ health and safety and build unions to defend workers. Free.

Kora Band featuring Kane Mathis
Saturday, March 26 -- 8:00 PM
The Seattle-based Kora Band brings its unique fusion of West African music and jazz to Traditions. They are getting good airplay and excellent reviews. Tickets: \$12 Student/low income: \$8

Peter Mayer
Sunday, March 27 -- 7:00 PM
You should expect a sell-out, so get your tickets early. Typical of responses from listeners and critics is this one. “His guitar work is breathtaking, his lyrics mind-spinning, his singing soul-soothing and his feet-on-the-ground optimism nothing short of healing.” --Marilyn Rea-Beyer, music director, WUMB Radio, Boston Tickets: \$15 Student/low income: \$10

Vagabond Opera
Thursday, March 31 -- 8:00 PM
This Portland group makes a first appearance at Traditons. “Gypsy music, opera, klezmer and cabaret come-ons mingle like emigres trading aliases at an after-hours night club.” – The Willamette Week Visit the website. Tickets: \$15 Student/low income: \$10

Olympia Food Co-op Classes

Register in person at either store between 11am-6pm daily or online at <http://www.olympiafood.coop/classes>.

Backyard Chickens 101
Taught by Bobby Johnson.
6 March, Sunday 1 - 4pm
Location: GRuB Farmhouse
Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have chickens in your backyard? Come and learn all about it: coops and fencing, feeding and tending and gathering your own fresh eggs!

Backyard Chickens 201
Taught by Bobby Johnson.
12 March, Saturday 1 - 4pm
Location: Olympia Food Co-op Community Classroom
Have a flock of birds in your backyard? Build on your knowledge of laying hens and the best ways to care for them. Meet other chicken enthusiasts for the ultimate skill share session.

Eat to Support Your Life’s Purpose
Taught by Ava Waits.
14 March, Monday 7 - 8pm
Location: Fertile Ground Guesthouse

In this class, we’ll talk about your long term goals in life, and how you can support your purpose with the foods that you eat each day. To accomplish anything great, you must be sure that your body feels the best that it possibly can. Not exactly sure what your large goals in life are? This class will be a great first step in your discovery process.

Making Fermented Vegetables
Taught by Summer Bock.
18 March, Friday 6:30 - 8:30pm
Location: GRuB Farmhouse
Learn how to make fermented veggies from the one and only, Oly Kraut. Staff member and Nutritional Counselor, Summer Bock will show you everything you need to know to turn your kitchen into a fermentation station. Join us for this fun and information-packed evening where you enjoy the fermentation from start to finish. Samples will be provided.

Backyard Chickens 101
Taught by Bobby Johnson.
20 March, Sunday 1 - 4pm
Location: GRuB Farmhouse
Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have chickens in your backyard? Come and learn all about it: coops and fencing, feeding and tending and gathering your own fresh eggs!

Gluten-Free Bread Baking
Taught by Jenn Kliese.
24 March, Thursday 6:30 - 8:30pm
Location: Fertile Ground Guesthouse
Bread is supposed to be the staff of life, but what do you do when you are gluten intolerant or allergic to wheat? Make Gluten-Free bread of course! You can enjoy again the smells, taste and texture of fresh bread from the oven. Toast in the morning, sliced up for sandwiches at lunch, and a hunk with your soup at dinner. It’s totally possible and totally delicious. Come empower yourself and learn the simple, but unusual techniques to master gluten-free yeasted bread. **all gluten-free with options for dairy-free and egg-free too)



Labor Rally at the Washington State Capitol on Saturday, February 26, 2011



Works in Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507

March 2011

FREE

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